

.Calendar.

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

Date to be confirmed

**XXXIst Meeting of the
Committee on
Education and Publicity
on AIDS (CEPAIDS)**

6pm 12 November 1998

**XVIth Meeting of
AIDS Services
Development
Committee (ASDC)**

date to be confirmed

**XVth Scientific
Committee on AIDS
(SCA) 9:30am 30 October
1998**

Jonathan Mann

Dr Jonathan Mann and his wife Mary-Lou were passengers on the Swissair flight that crashed off the coast of Nova Scotia on 2 September. We are saddened to know of the tragedy.

Dr Mann had had close relationship with all of us working on AIDS here in Hong Kong. He came to Hong Kong with his son Aaron for a brief visit in November 1993. We could still remember his thoughtful presentation at the Health Services Panel of the Legislative Council. His appeal for HIV prevention and care, and the respect for human rights, had touched the hearts of many, here and globally. Dr Mann became an honorary adviser of our Community Charter on AIDS in 1994. He had since been supporting our local programmes through useful advice and discussions.

In the months before the accident, Dr Mann had been advising on the re-launching of the Charter, which he had kindly agreed to be an adviser. His death is a great loss to us and the global AIDS efforts. ❀

To Move Ahead

ON 11 september 1998, the Advisory Council on AIDS officially accepted the external consultancy report, an important document generated after months' work on reviewing the local AIDS situation and programmes. Building on the recommendations put forward, AIDS strategy for 1999 to 2001 was presented and endorsed. This would become the blueprint for the work in Hong Kong in the coming years. Ten specific targets have been set and are printed on page 4. ❀

Publications

BOTH the *External Consultancy Report* and the *Strategy for 1999 to 2001* would be translated into Chinese, and published as monographs for the reference of whoever will be interested in the subject. ❀

DR SEX HOTLINE 2337 2121

Advisory Council on AIDS Secretariat

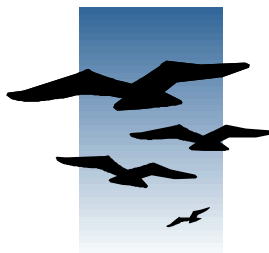
1/F Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic, 200 Junction Road East, Kowloon, Hong Kong.
Tel: (852) 2304 6100; Fax: (852) 2337 0897

INJECTION drug use has been identified as one of the priority areas to be targeted in Hong Kong's AIDS programme, as recommended by external consultants of the review. As **Lions Visiting Scholar 1998**, Dr Robert Newman has been able to convey the clear messages of HIV prevention and harm reduction not only in

Hong Kong but also across the border in the Mainland.

Dr Newman had a busy schedule in mid-September. He travelled to Beijing where he presented at a national harm reduction conference and held meetings with national and international partners on HIV/drug use programmes.

On 23 September, Dr Newman met with the



Hong Kong Government's harm reduction and HIV programme officials. At the invitation of the Advisory Council, he had informal discussion at Red Ribbon Centre with members and NGOs. On 24 September he spoke at a seminar hosted by Council of Social Service and Lions. The seminar was well attended by drug rehabilitation workers, AIDS workers, and researchers.

In his short stay in Hong Kong, Dr Newman repeatedly stressed the importance of methadone treatment for drug users, and advocated an integration of HIV prevention and harm reduction efforts. ❁

Brief Notes

- *Condoms have been freely available at Hong Kong's Methadone clinics since 1994. Currently, about 5000 are distributed each month.*
- *Posters on HIV prevention are posted in all methadone clinics. Messages on HIV prevention are screened on TV in the clinics.*
- *Special education kits on harm reduction and safer sex are distributed to methadone clients.*
- *Syringe clean-up campaigns are regularly conducted by the Task Force on Drug and AIDS of CEPAIDS.*
- *Peer education is organised by Pui Hong Self Help Association with the support of the Task Force.*
- *Ongoing behavioural monitoring and surveillance activities are organised.*



ACA and DH AIDS Unit
<http://www.info.gov.hk/aids>

Activities

AIDS Hotline
2780 2211

Recognition Scheme

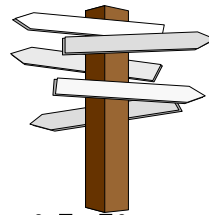
An *Outstanding AIDS Workers Recognition Scheme* is established by CEPAIDS, Hong Kong Council of Social Service and Red Ribbon Centre. The objectives are to arouse public awareness and acknowledge efforts of people who have contributed to HIV prevention and care in Hong Kong.

Candidates must be Hong Kong residents and have participated in any form(s) of AIDS work - treatment, care, publicity, education, research, prevention, voluntary work, counselling....Nomination forms are available from Red Ribbon Centre (tel: 23046268). Deadline for nomination: 16 October 1998. ☼

Cumulative HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong updated 30 June 1998

		total	(AIDS)
Gender	male	912	(314)
	female	154	(35)
Ethnicity	Chinese	732	(261)
	non-Chinese	334	(88)
Transmission	heterosexual	579	(200)
	homosexual	239	(82)
	bisexual	58	(24)
	Injecting drug use	17	(5)
	blood/bl products	67	(16)
	perinatal	6	(2)
	undetermined	100	(20)
TOTAL		1066	(349)

Department of Health, Hong Kong



Guidelines

The Council of Social Service has just distributed its *Cooperative Guidelines for Related Professionals on providing Home Help Service to People with HIV/AIDS*. The bilingual guidelines is prepared by the Working Group on Co-operative Guidelines for Home Help Service of the Council of Social Service's Committee on AIDS. ☼

Strategy 1999 - 2001

EARLY TARGETS

Target One: A community planning process will be initiated to strengthen the coordinated response of Hong Kong towards HIV prevention and care, with the active role assumed by the community in its planning. Its mechanism should be developed in consultation with community organisations and people living with HIV/AIDS.

Target Two: The Council for the AIDS Trust Fund will be advised to review its technical review process and evaluation mechanisms, taking into consideration the recommendations made in the external consultancy report.

Target Three: A plan will be proposed to strengthen the role of the Advisory Council on AIDS, and to streamline its operation to carry forward the strategies developed for 1999-2001, guided by the principles and objectives so established.

THROUGH PERIOD TARGETS

Target Four: The community planning process will be in operation, through which effective intervention and capacity-building activities

AT the Advisory Council on AIDS meeting on 11 September, the strategy for 1999 to 2001 was discussed and endorsed. This constitutes the Council's followup to the internal assessment and external consultancy reports.

will be recommended for implementation.

Target Five: The community planning process will be supported, and the mechanisms of its operation evaluated for consolidation and refinement to improve its future development.

Target Six: Prevention strategies on vulnerable populations will be developed. The main objectives are to stimulate interest in and bridging with the community, and to catalyse development of intervention efforts.

Strategy development is a dynamic process requiring community input, ongoing evaluation and refinement.

Target Seven: The HIV surveillance system shall be strengthened in the collection, analysis and dissemination of epidemiological information. The system shall be expanded to incorporate STD surveillance and behavioural monitoring.

Target Eight: Clinical HIV

management shall become developed as a specialist care programme with an integration of medical, laboratory and support services. The system should be supported by the enhanced participation of medical practitioners of all disciplines towards improved diagnosis and shared care.

END OF PERIOD TARGETS

Target Nine: The progress on the implementation of the AIDS strategies over the three-year period (1999-2001) will be reviewed, which would provide input for planning the strategies for the next three to five years

Target Ten: The epidemiological and related behavioural situation on HIV/AIDS should be assessed to form the scientific basis for steering the development of medium and long term strategies on HIV/AIDS prevention and care in Hong Kong. ❀