

ICOHRTA Visiting Scientists Program

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Project Description: This project is an extension of the International Traineeships in AIDS Prevention Studies Program (I-TAPS) through a partnership with the Centro de Estudos de AIDS do Rio Grande do Sul (CEARGS) in Porto Alegre, Brazil and with the Universidade Federale do Bahia (UFBA) in Salvador, and funded by the Fogarty International Center. It is aimed at training scientists in AIDS prevention research, with a focus on epidemiological and behavioral studies. In-country training at CEARGS and UFBA are conducted in Portuguese. Brazilian collaborators work in conjunction with the Brazilian Ministry of Health, UNAIDS, CDC, and other partners to identify trainees in Brazil. The main goal is to provide self-sufficiency for research scientists in Brazil, capable of designing and implementing AIDS intervention research, independently or in collaboration with US investigators.

This project, begun in 2001, was recently renewed for 2006-2011. In the first funding cycle, training of Brazilian scientists occurred both at CAPS and in Brazil. Six visiting scientists from Brazil attended the I-TAPS summer intensive training courses in 2002 and 2003; each produced a pilot research protocol. In 2005 and 2006, nine Brazilian scientists attended one of three scientific writing workshops to analyze their data and to prepare scientific manuscripts. Training of Brazilian scientists at CAPS will continue during the current funding cycle, but supported by other funding sources.

At CEARGS in Porto Alegre in the south of Brazil, 162 Brazilian scientists have been trained since 2002 in several short courses on clinical research methods, basic epidemiology, and data analysis. Two additional scientific writing courses were attended by 69 scientists in 2004 and 2005. A distance learning component was added at the end of 2005, enabling scientists from all over Brazil to attend the basic clinical research methods trainings through teleconferencing.

In the current funding cycle, a second training site, in addition to CEARGS, has been established at UFBA, in order to attract scientists from the north and northeast of Brazil. The first training course in research methods during this grant cycle will take place at UFBA in the fall of 2007.

Project Website: www.ceargs.org.br

Project End Date: September 2006