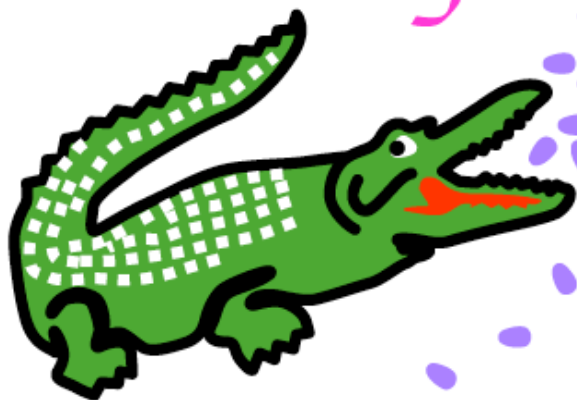


Feeling PrEP-y?



Is CHAMP changing our fashion sense to serve as decoys at AIDS protests? Or are we just dizzy from holding our breath waiting for any news that the tide of new HIV infection might finally be abated, despite government *Just Say No* policies?

Well, no. We're as fashionable (or not) as ever, but we're also plunging into advocacy for a new generation of potential HIV prevention options. So CHAMP is putting the word out on the latest, and perhaps most controversial, biomedical prevention intervention being studied, **Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis**, or **PrEP**.

PrEP studies are evaluating if antiretrovirals once a day (either tenofivir or Truvada) would decrease a person's chance of getting HIV.... An intriguing concept that also raises a lot of questions, but the answers to many of the questions can only be found in well-designed, large and long clinical trials.

To separate known facts from wishful thinking, we put out a consensus statement at the Retrovirus Conference, calling for more and better PrEP research; participated in a think tank meeting at UCLA; asked resident science guru David Gilden to break it down for us in the May issue of our *HHS Watch*; and organized a public forum with researchers and advocates in New York City to educate our community. Get PrEP-y at our website with the full forum report: www.champnetwork.org/index.php?name=prep. And hats off to our colleagues at AVAC, who have put up a comprehensive info site at www.aidsvaccineclearinghouse.org/prepwatch.htm!

CHAMPsters IN THE NEWS

"The bottom line is that African-Americans have been left out of this study to make the drug look good, ...My community needs equal access to early research so we can find treatments that work for us, not just a few token people brought in later for the high dose arm to try to cover up this racist exclusion."

— 3.30.2006, CHAMP Board member **Judith Dillard** quoted in a **Star Ledger** story on the Schering- Plough's exclusion of African Americans in a Hepatitis C treatment trial.



"We should have condoms on demand. I'm not promoting sex. I'm not promoting sex among teens. I'm not promoting sex in jails. But I have enough sense to recognize that sex is going on! Fifteen million deaths. Twenty five million new infections. You do the math!"

— 6.01.2006, ACT UP Philly member and CHAMP Prevention Justice partner **Waheedah Shabbaz** quoted in a **Voice of America** story on protests at the UN High Level Meeting on AIDS.

Prevention Justice Partnership Update

The first year of the **Prevention Justice Partnership (PJP)** kicked off to a roaring start. CHAMP staff completed the first quarter trainings for four partner organizations in **Idaho, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Texas**. The two-day intensive trainings covered the basics on community organizing and mobilization, choosing an issue campaign, and strategy development. Our second quarter trainings will focus on strategic media for advocacy campaigns. Meanwhile, we held our 2 month long **Prevention Justice Seminar in Rhode Island**, and started working on the second annual summer **Youth ACTION Institute**. We are also looking forward to starting up an additional PJP site in California later in the summer, lead by CHAMP's board chair Walt Senterfitt and our Kiyoshi Kuromiya Scholar & New Voices Fellow Pedro Soto. Following are brief updates from four of our partner sites:



ACT UP Austin – Core group members are building a campaign to demand access to condoms in Texas State Prisons. They are targeting the Texas Sunset Commission, which is reviewing policies governing the Department of Corrections this year. Their campaign kicked off on May 21st at the annual candlelight vigil at the state capitol. A sign-on letter and a set of recommendations were endorsed by over 50 national and Texas-based organizations, State Representatives, and individuals.

Allies Linked for the Prevention of HIV and AIDS/ALPHA – Members of this youthful, all-volunteer HIV prevention group have chosen, an issue as dear to their heart as it is meaningful in HIV prevention -- seeking a declaration of a public health emergency in Boise, ID to allow legal needle exchange. Given the political challenges in Idaho, the group is committed to a long-term campaign, incorporating community based harm reduction including bleach kits availability and OD prevention.



North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition – Our first quarter trainings on base building and event planning came in handy for coalition members, who were planning a march on the state capitol to demand needle exchange programs to save lives. CHAMP will continue to work with the coalition on amplifying the voices of people with HIV and winning the passage of state legislation that will create funding for legalized needle exchange programs in North Carolina.

ACT UP Philadelphia – While policies on condom access in jails and public high schools have been on the books for almost two decades, they are not readily available to all in need. ACT UP Philly has initiated community oversight of these hard won policies, and demanding safe and widespread access. In addition to their recent work around UNGASS, the group is working with CHAMP to document their large network of allies and boost their fundraising efforts.

CHAMP NY HIV Prevention Forums: Policy, Activism, and Social Justice

This spring & summer, CHAMP NY and the LGBT Community Center teamed up to present a series of community forums on cutting edge issues in HIV prevention. These forums brings together seasoned researchers to present recent data from their work, prevention service providers and clinicians to share their experiences working in the field, and policy advocates to compare notes on innovative legislative and legal strategies and strategize on campaigns.



Popping A Pill To Prevent HIV: Can AIDS drugs stop HIV transmission? — 4.25.2006 —

This was the first independent public forum focusing on research on the use of antiviral drugs to prevent HIV in uninfected people, and included discussion on the international controversies in a first generation of trials, issues for the gay community, and the need for a broad range of prevention options. Researchers from current PrEP trials in San Francisco and Peru were on-hand to discuss the progress of their work. Edd Lee from the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition was our charming facilitator.

The Moment of Truth for National and International AIDS Policy: Immigrants, International Solidarity and the Battle Against AIDS — 5.10.2006 —

“Abstinence-only-until-marriage” policies promoted in the United States have spread into a global net pushing stigma, anti-gay bias, misinformation and denial of access to education, condoms and needles. As people prepared for the second United Nation General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS) in New York, this timely forum drew together the various strings from global and domestic HIV/AIDS policies and immigrant rights.



Two more forums are coming in June & July, so mark your calendar and come join us!

@ The LGBT Community Center, 208 W.13th Street, New York City

HIV Prevention Big Brother Style? - 6.27. 2006 @ 6:30 pm - Current controversies around the new inform consent and testing guidelines, the perception of HIV stigma and privacy rights, HIV reporting regulations, and government monitoring of prevention programs.

The Politics of Sexual Health - 7.25.2006 @ 6:30 pm - The backlash against emergency contraception, HPV vaccine, condoms, abortion rights, and new HIV prevention technologies.

Spotlight on The Strategy Lab for HIV Prevention

CHAMP's Strategy Lab is a policy think tank, an organizing body for advocacy campaigns, and a voice of leadership for a HIV prevention movement based on sound research. Membership consists of researchers, service providers, policy advocates, people living with HIV and new activists from the most affected communities. The **Strategy Lab listserv** provides a unique forum for people working in HIV prevention to exchange ideas, share strategies, seek resources and build campaigns. It is often where first discussions about controversial new policies and research data take place. **Monthly conference calls** offer more in-depth investigation of the issues raised on the listserv, where members debate and devise campaigns to advocate for better HIV prevention policies.

The **HHS Watch**, a monthly watchdog e-newsletter, reports back from leading scientific conferences, breaks down the difficult jargon, investigates behavioral research from the public health arena, and digests it for community consumption. *The HHS Watch* also provides critical analysis on policy based on available scientific data. The *HHS Watch* has become a leading source of important information in the field of HIV prevention, providing the backbone upon which advocacy is built.

This potent formula enabled CHAMP and our allies to launch a series of **campaigns**, which regular readers of *CHAMP News* are familiar with from the past year. From calling attention to the inaccuracy and biases presented on Health and Human Services website **4parents.gov** and the Bush Administration's "**War on Condoms**", to our current fight against the CDC's Program Monitoring and Evaluation Systems (**PEMS**) and our demand for more **PrEP** research, it is upon the fertile ground of the Strategy Lab where the seeds of discontent are sown and the campaign blossomed.

The Strategy Lab is not an observer's sport, so if you are interested in becoming a member and roll up your sleeves to do some work, send an email to jdavids@champnetwork.org with a description of your background and experiences to apply.

PEMS "Fix it or Nix it" Campaign Update

As CHAMP News is going to press, the CDC just released a "Dear Colleague" letter **postponing PEMS implementation indefinitely** and announcing plans to convene work groups to review the variable requirements and system usability. You can read this letter, along with CHAMP's two-page summary of the stakeholders meeting, at www.champnetwork.org/index.php?name=PEMS

Are you going to the HIV Prevention Leadership Summit (HPLS) in Dallas June 4-7?

Please join us for two PEMS-related events organized by CHAMP:

- (1) CHAMP roundtable on "Community-Driven Monitoring and Evaluation of Prevention Programs," Tuesday (6/6) from 8:30-9:30a and 9:30a-10:30a
- (2) Join Jen Sinton, Staff Attorney for Lambda Legal's HIV Project, and CHAMP for an informal meeting on PEMS privacy concerns and advocacy strategy on Monday (6/5) at 5:15p (after the final sessions that day). Email sean@champnetwork.org for location.

What's Up @ CHAMP



The International Rectal Microbicides work group, convened by the **AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Canadian AIDS Society and CHAMP**, released a new report entitled "*Rectal Microbicides: Investment and Advocacy*" in May, and hosted a symposium at the 2006 Microbicides Conference at Cape Town, South Africa. The report calls for \$315 million over the next ten years for the development of a rectal microbicide, as well as advocacy recommendations including community trial preparedness and education, improve surveillance for anal intercourse for needs assessment, and studies of vaginal microbicides for rectal use. The report is available at <http://www.lifelube.org/>



Congrats & welcome to our first **Kiyoshi Kuromiya Policy Fellow Pedro Soto**, chosen as one of 12 recipients of the **2006 New Voices National Fellowship**. Kiyoshi Kuromiya, a gay activist living with HIV and a lifelong organizer for social justice, believed that health care was the civil rights movement of our age. CHAMP has established this two-year policy fellowship for activists of color in his memory. Pedro, an openly gay, recent Mexican immigrant living with AIDS, is an accomplished painter and sculptor who has worked Latino and African American community organizations in Los Angeles. Working with CHAMP Board Chair Walt Senterfitt, he will head up our West Coast office, lead trainings for CHAMP Academy *en Español*, and expand CHAMP's work on "prevention with positives" policies.



Say hello to CHAMP's new **Administrative Coordinator Stephen Hogan**! Stephen is a native of Rhode Island. Before coming to CHAMP, he worked as the Communications/PR Associate at the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and as the PR Manager and Event Coordinator for the Rhode Island International Film Festival. Besides brightening our Providence office with his sunny personality and design sense, Stephen will beef up our technology as we improve our website, database, and action alert system, and take on the challenging task of keeping our messy activist lives in good working order.

Victory in the Ocean State!

At the end of last year, CHAMP opened our second office in Rhode Island, our nation's smallest state in terms of landmass, but one of the largest in terms of feistiness, HIV prevention research, and commitment to public health. Soon after our arrival, state health officials announced a growing shortfall in Title II, which are federal funds that pay for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, a vital source of medication for people with HIV with no other means of access, as well as the supportive services that help people stay on treatment. They started talking cuts, and CHAMP Rhode Island gathered people to fight back. We wrote two detailed letters to the Director of Health demanding answers, worked alongside local groups to testify at state budget hearings, and helped with a story that broke the news in the popular weekly paper.

We're pleased to say that the Governor's budget requests adopts the community recommendation to not only close the hole in past funding, but to finally add state funds to the mix of Title II (Rhode Island had previously been one of only 13 states that didn't bolster federal dollars with state funds). And we're thrilled to be working with the dedicated people here in the Ocean State!



Community leaders Bobby Ducharme & Dee Dee Williams tell it like it is at a CHAMP RI forum

Big Thanks to GMHC & all the walkers on the CHAMP Team in this year's AIDS Walk NYC!

Thanks to Emmanuel Bosgang, Liz Collins, Maria Fiesta, Jennie Jeddry, Kevin Lo, Kevin McCarthy, Kathryn Romansky, Kenny Torres, Lamont Valentin, Annie Washburn, Susan Wolfson, & CHAMP staff, CHAMP raised \$10,710 for our group in this annual event.

And Thank You, Our Individual Donors!

Serder and Zehra Arat, Chris Bartlett, Amadee Braxton, Paul Feldman, Michael Gillenwater and Bindhya Patel, Michael Hirschhorn, Christina Kazanas, Laura Morrison, Emily Nepon, Billy Pick, Jim Pickett, Michael Shriver, April Smith, Jennifer Uleman, & Susan Wolfson... plus all our AIDS Walk Pledgers!

Last but not least, we would like to thank the **Gesso Foundation, Ford Foundation, Broadway Cares, & the Sara Weaver Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation** for their recent grants and continuing support!

We Are Moving our New York Office in July!



BIG GIANT THANKS to **Housing Works** for hosting our NYC office in their underground space 'neath the fabulous Used Bookstore and Cafe on Crosby Street. We miss you **Keith Cylar**, and will miss everyone we've met there in the past 2 years! As of July 1, we're sharing space with **Applied Research Center** at 32 Broadway on the 18th floor, with windows facing the "Cannon of Heros," getting ready for that ticker tape parade when we bring an END to the AIDS pandemic...

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