

MEDIA BRIEF

PACE PROJECT

BACKGROUND

The Partnership for Advanced Clinical Education (PACE) is a PEPFAR/CDC-funded program of the University of Maryland Baltimore and University of Nairobi, working in close collaboration with the Kenya National AIDS & STI Control Programme (NASCO) to strengthen pre-service and in-service HIV education and training in Kenya. The PACE grant is a direct response to priorities outlined in the Kenya National AIDS Strategic Plan III (2009-2013), which recognized:

1. the proliferation of HIV in-service training and the associated high costs and amount of time health care workers are away from their work stations, and;
2. the lack of HIV-practice-ready graduates emerging from the country's universities.

GOAL AND AIMS

The overarching goal of PACE is to increase the impact, efficiency, and sustainability of pre-service and in-service HIV training in Kenya. The program aims to:

1. support Kenya's 6 public universities to deliver HIV education that is based on core competencies for HIV service delivery and uses teaching methodologies that maximize adult learning principles;
2. develop and implement, in close partnership with NASCO, an integrated competency-based in-service HIV training curriculum that utilizes self-learning and on-site mentorship delivered through a coordinated training network, and;
3. develop capacity within universities, medical training colleges, and MOH health facilities to provide structured and practical high quality training in HIV laboratory services.

STRATEGIES

PACE is using four broad strategies to achieve the program goal:

1. rationalizing *what* is taught by focusing on the core competencies a health care worker needs in their day-to-day practice;
2. improving *how* it is taught through utilizing problem- and systems-based adult learning methodologies;
3. changing *where* it is taught—moving training from the classroom or hotel into clinical training centers which mirror the participant's own workplace, and utilizing distance/self-learning formats and online teaching platforms, and;
4. Implementing a rigorous monitoring and evaluation framework that not only measures changes in health care worker knowledge, but also evaluates improvement in clinical practice, quality of care, and ultimately patient outcomes.

HIV SYMPOSIUM - "THE ROLE OF TRAINING AND RESEARCH IN HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY: LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE HIV EPIDEMIC"

With the increasing capability and number of research and training institutions within the health sector, their capacity to contribute to improving the health status and quality of life of Kenyans has improved. Perhaps no other disease condition can better illustrate the emerging role of training and research institutions in maintaining and improving the health status of a population, than the concerted effort to control the HIV epidemic under the stewardship of the Kenyan government with considerable input from development partners.

The PACE Program will host a two day HIV symposium (June 14th – 15th, 2012) on the role of training and research in health service delivery and the lessons learnt from the HIV epidemic.

The symposium will highlight the role these establishments have played and will continue to play in the fields of HIV prevention, care and treatment, diagnostics and research and training whether through original research that informs national health policy or as implementing partners in service delivery within the health sector. Another equally important aspect to be tackled by the symposium will be the lessons learnt from the HIV epidemic regarding the transfer of knowledge from research to practice that could be incorporated in the management of other diseases affecting the health of the Kenyan population such as other communicable diseases like tuberculosis, neglected tropical diseases and non-communicable diseases.

The theme of the symposium is: *"The role of training and research in health service delivery: Lessons learnt from the HIV epidemic"*. The Sub themes are:

1. Updates on prevention
2. Care and treatment updates
3. Diagnostics
4. HIV research and training
5. From research to practice: lessons learnt

The chief guest speaker at the event is Dr Robert C. Gallo (Director, Institute of Human Virology, University of Maryland). Dr Gallo became world famous in 1984 when he co-discovered HIV as the cause of AIDS. Though best known for his co-discovery of HIV, Gallo and his colleagues also pioneered the development of the HIV blood test, which enables health care workers to screen for the AIDS virus. His research has also been integral in assisting physicians develop HIV therapies to prolong the lives of those infected with the virus.

Dr. Gallo's research has brought him international recognition. He has been awarded honors for his contribution to science from countries around the world and holds 29 honorary doctorates. He was the most referenced scientist in the world in the 1980s and 1990s.

Other guest speakers at the event include Dr John Bartlett (Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases, Johns Hopkins University), Dr Robert Redfield (Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases, Institute of Human Virology, University of Maryland), Professor Dorothy Ngacha (Senior HIV Specialist, UNICEF ESARO), Dr James Kiarie (Senior Lecturer, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Nairobi), Dr Clement Zeh (Director, HIV Research Laboratory, KEMRI/CDC Research and Public Health Collaboration) and Dr Sylvester Kimaiyo (Program Manager, AMPATH, Moi University) among others.

The two day symposium will target over 300 faculty from 6 public universities within Kenya and a wide range of national stakeholders among them government health bodies including the National AIDS & STI Control Programme, in-service health care providers, government implementing partners, patient bodies and international funding agencies.