



*This issue of the Public Health Program (PHP) e-Newsletter highlights our work during the months of June, July, and August, with events in September and October. We encourage information sharing to explore potential linkages and receive feedback. Suggestions and input are welcome. Contact Ellen Liu at [eliu@sorosny.org](mailto:eliu@sorosny.org). Please visit the PHP website at [www.soros.org/health](http://www.soros.org/health).*

### **Advocacy on Our Issues:**

#### **OSI Advances Advocacy Agenda at the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto**

From August 13 to 18, OSI Public Health Program staff, advisors, grantees, and partners played a leading role at the International AIDS Conference in Toronto, actively organizing and participating in over 25 conference presentations, satellite sessions, press conferences, and side events. PHP raised the profile of issues including: the role of civil society in monitoring TB and HIV commitments; evidence-based harm reduction measures to reduce HIV infection and increase access to treatment for drug users; sex worker health and rights; access to palliative care; civil society engagement in Global Fund mechanisms; and promoting a human rights approach in the fight against HIV. Press coverage included news stories in the Toronto Star, NPR, Bloomberg, Reuters, Agence France Presse, Newsday, and the South Africa Press Association. Contact: Ellen Liu, [eliu@sorosny.org](mailto:eliu@sorosny.org)

#### **IHRD Launches New Publication on Providing HIV Care and Treatment to People Who Use Drugs**

In July, IHRD published *Delivering HIV Care and Treatment for People Who Use Drugs: Lessons from Research and Practice*, a peer-reviewed volume that shows how medical personnel, public health officials, policymakers, and advocates can most effectively provide HIV treatment and related health care for people with a history of drug use. The publication was launched on August 14 at a well-attended IHRD satellite session at the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto, featuring Michel Kazatchkine, French HIV/AIDS ambassador, Joep Lange, former president of the International AIDS Society, and Sasha Volgina, a prominent Russian activist and expert on HIV treatment access. Contact: Sophie Pinkham, [spinkham@sorosny.org](mailto:spinkham@sorosny.org)

#### **Russian Activist Calls for Legalization of Substitution Treatment**

Russian AIDS activist and IHRD consultant Sasha Volgina delivered a plenary speech at the XVI International AIDS Conference highlighting the current status of access to ARV treatment in Russia. Although drug users are no longer formally excluded from treatment and despite increased AIDS funding in Russia, HIV prevention and treatment programs still do not include proven measures to increase effectiveness among drug users such as substitution treatment with methadone or buprenorphine. Volgina's call for Russia to legalize substitution treatment won applause from the audience of over 3,000 people. Contact: Sophie Pinkham, [spinkham@sorosny.org](mailto:spinkham@sorosny.org)

#### **Harm Reduction Standards Win Approval by Lithuanian Minister of Health**

The Lithuanian minister of health approved evidence-based harm reduction standards developed in part by a coalition of NGOs and experts that included IHRD partners and grantees. After years of attacks on harm reduction programs by media and politicians, the standards were the culmination of an IHRD-funded advocacy and public relations program that aimed to increase acceptance and implementation of harm reduction in Lithuania. The standards are available in

English on the I Can Live coalition's website: <http://www.galiugyventi.lt/>. Contact: Jurga Poskeviciute, [jurgap@osf.lt](mailto:jurgap@osf.lt)

### **Release of SHARP Report Promotes Dialogue on Sex Worker Rights and Concerns**

SHARP released the report *Sex Worker Health and Rights: Where Is the Funding?* at the XVI International AIDS Conference to stimulate dialogue about key sex worker health and rights concerns. The report is both a mapping of the funding landscape around sex worker issues and a resource guide targeted to both the philanthropic community and grassroots audiences. SHARP anticipates that the report will generate greater awareness about the pressing needs of sex workers, including the right to be free from discrimination and violence, have safe working conditions and quality health services, and opportunities for donors to fund groups undertaking these critical efforts. Contact: Sue Simon, [ssimon@sorosny.org](mailto:ssimon@sorosny.org)

### **In SHARP Focus at the International AIDS Conference**

During the XVI International AIDS Conference, the Sexual Health and Rights Project produced the electronic newsletter *In SHARP Focus at the International AIDS Conference* to provide information to those in attendance and at home about key sexual health and rights issues, activities, and debates as they emerged. The five installments paid special attention to sex workers health and rights; HIV prevention, treatment, and care needs of men who have sex with men (MSM); and health and rights concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. The newsletters can be accessed at:

[http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/sharp/articles\\_publications/publications/focusiac\\_20060814](http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/sharp/articles_publications/publications/focusiac_20060814). Contact: Rachel Thomas, [rthomas@sorosny.org](mailto:rthomas@sorosny.org)

### **Advocacy on Essential Pain Medication Accessibility in Africa**

The first Regional Essential Pain Medication Workshop was held by the African Palliative Care Association in Entebbe, Uganda, on June 27-29. Co-sponsored by the International Palliative Care Initiative (IPCI) and several of its international partners, the three-day workshop was conducted to help country representatives examine national legal frameworks and policies, and identify problems resulting from the limited access to opioid analgesics. National strategies were developed to advocate for drug reforms that would support the inclusion of essential drugs for patients with life-limiting illnesses such as cancer, HIV, and AIDS, and address critically deficient aspects of palliative care service provisions. Contact: Kiera Hepford, [khepford@sorosny.org](mailto:khepford@sorosny.org)

### **Symposium for Palliative Care Practices and Models at the World Cancer Congress**

In July, IPCI and the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC) presented a symposium on integrating palliative care into national health policies at the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) World Cancer Congress in Washington, D.C. Leading experts from Spain, Sweden, Canada, and the United States shared successful models for palliative care programs and implementing changes in national policies. Contact: Kiera Hepford, [khepford@sorosny.org](mailto:khepford@sorosny.org)

### **Palliative Care Events at the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto**

In collaboration with the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) and the UK-based Help the Hospices, the International Palliative Care Initiative held a press conference to address the low priority given to palliative care services in HIV/AIDS care and treatment programs and the difficulty of integrating palliative care programs into the national health policies of resource-limited nations. IPCI, grantees, and partners also presented at a symposium to discuss achievements of palliative care organizations despite constrained resources. Lastly, IPCI moderated the presentation, "Models of Care and HIV: Treatment for the

Whole Person,” which included abstract presentations by grantees and partners from Vietnam, Russia, and South Africa. Contact: Kiera Hepford, [khepford@sorosny.org](mailto:khepford@sorosny.org)

### **OSI Joins Stakeholders at the Global Fund Partnership Forum**

OSI joined over 400 stakeholders from 118 countries at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria’s Partnership Forum in Durban, South Africa on July 2–3. Participants from civil society, the private sector, private foundations, government, and multilaterals met with representatives of the Global Fund Secretariat, board members, principal recipients, sub-recipients, and CCM members. Over the two days, participants developed recommendations pertaining to best practices, challenges on improving procurement and supply management, country coordinating mechanisms, local fund agents, principal recipients, private sector involvement, civil society involvement, technical assistance and harmonization, and multi-country projects. A summary of online discussions leading up to the Forum can be found at: [http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/files/forum/2006/eForum\\_Report.pdf](http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/files/forum/2006/eForum_Report.pdf). Contact: Shannon Kowalski-Morton, [skowalski@sorosny.org](mailto:skowalski@sorosny.org)

### **Monitoring and Accountability:**

#### **Public Health Watch Launches Preview of TB Monitoring Project Reports**

On August 8, Public Health Watch (PHW) hosted a media teleconference with Stephen Lewis, UN special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, Sisonke Msimang, programme manager, OSISA, and PHW TB researchers from Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Brazil to launch a “preview” publication featuring highlights of findings related to TB-HIV policies and programs and the impact of HIV/AIDS on TB policies. It was in collaboration with Panos, Results, and the International Center for Journalists. More than 20 journalists participated, generating stories in Reuters, the *Toronto Star*, National Public Radio, Voice of America, the Nigerian *Vanguard Newspapers*, the East African *Daily Nation*, and more. The full TB monitoring reports for Bangladesh, Brazil, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Thailand will be available in November. Contact: Emily Bell, [ebell@sorosny.org](mailto:ebell@sorosny.org)

#### **Experiences of Community-led TB/HIV Advocacy Documented in New Publication**

On the eve of the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto, Public Health Watch and the Treatment Action Group (TAG) released a joint publication, *Civil Society Perspectives on TB/HIV: Highlights from a Joint Initiative to Promote Community-Led Advocacy*, highlighting case studies in Indonesia, Mexico, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Ukraine, and the Caribbean. The publication underscores the importance of enhancing community engagement in the design, implementation, and evaluation of collaborative TB/HIV programs. See: [http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/phw/articles\\_publications/publications/highlights\\_20060811](http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/phw/articles_publications/publications/highlights_20060811).

Contact: Eleonora Jimenez, [ejimenez@sorosny.org](mailto:ejimenez@sorosny.org)

#### **12 New Grantees Selected to Monitor Collaborative TB/HIV Activities**

Public Health Watch’s TB/HIV Monitoring & Advocacy Project awarded grants of \$5,000 to 12 community-based organizations to conduct national or subnational monitoring of TB/HIV policy implementation in their countries using the WHO TB/HIV Policy. The initial call for proposals generated an overwhelming response and over 180 proposals from organizations around the globe submitted entries. Organizational profiles will be posted on the Public Health Watch site: <http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/phw>. Contact: Eleonora Jimenez, [ejimenez@sorosny.org](mailto:ejimenez@sorosny.org)

### **Capacity Building:**

### **International Palliative Care Initiative Fellowships Awarded**

In August, the IPCI and the Pain & Policy Studies Group of the University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center selected the first class of eight International Pain Policy Fellows from Nigeria, Serbia, Panama, Vietnam, Argentina, Uganda, Colombia, and Sierra Leone. The two-year fellowship program will train and mentor the fellows to develop a pain policy project for improving the availability of opioid analgesics for pain management in their respective countries. Additionally, the first IPCI palliative care fellow, Dr. Leonida Mirilo of Serbia, was awarded a two-year grant to develop a palliative care program in a hospital-based oncology program. The two-year grant will be jointly administered by BELhospice and the Clinical Center of Serbia. Contact: Kiera Hepford, [khepford@sorosny.org](mailto:khepford@sorosny.org)

### **EuroHealthNet Workshop focuses on Roma Health Mediation Programs**

The Roma Health Project is collaborating with EuroHealthNet ([www.eurohealthnet.org](http://www.eurohealthnet.org)) to train governmental health promotion professionals on designing and implementing programs to reduce health disparities between Roma and non-Roma populations. The OSI-sponsored workshop will focus on lessons learned for implementing Roma health mediation programs, as well as comprehensive interventions to address systemic discrimination and health inequalities. This workshop is part of a three-day EuroHealthNet training for health policymakers from Central and Eastern Europe, September 26 to 28. EuroHealthNet is a network of health promotion and public health agencies in Europe. Contact: Eva Maria Foldes, [efoldes@osi.hu](mailto:efoldes@osi.hu)

### **Cross-Cutting Issues:**

#### **OSI-Supported Journalism Fellows Investigate Roma Health Care**

OSI's Roma Health and Health Media programs collaborated to support the Center for Independent Journalism in Bucharest, Romania, to launch an investigative journalism fellowship on access to health care for Roma. After a national two-day editors roundtable and a competitive selection process, the project resulted in the production and publishing of three pieces in regional newspapers in Romania. The articles bring to light the need to further improve access to quality health care for Roma and explore the systems that create unequal access. To view the articles, visit: [http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/roma/articles\\_publications/sub\\_listing](http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/roma/articles_publications/sub_listing). Contact: Eva Maria Foldes, [efoldes@osi.hu](mailto:efoldes@osi.hu)

### **Other News and Announcements:**

#### **Dr. Chris Beyrer Joins OSI's Global Health Advisory Committee**

Dr. Chris Beyrer, an international HIV/AIDS expert, is associate professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and the director of the Johns Hopkins Fogarty AIDS International Training and Research Program. He has worked closely with OSI in Burma, Asia, and Russia, and his contributions to date have been invaluable to the efforts of the International Harm Reduction Development Program and Sexual Health and Rights Project, as well as to discussions of PHP's Global AIDS Initiative. The Public Health Program welcomes Dr. Beyrer.

#### **Dr. Gita Sen Joins OSI's Global Health Advisory Committee**

Dr. Gita Sen, a widely respected health and development economist, is Sir Ratan Tata Chair Professor at the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore and an adjunct professor of international health at Harvard University. She is currently on the CSO Advisory Committee to the administrator of UNDP, and has been a chairperson of the External Gender Consultative Group of the World Bank, a member of the Global Advisory Committee on Health Research of

WHO, and vice-chair of the Board of the International Women's Health Coalition. The Public Health Program welcomes Dr. Sen.

#### **New Law and Health Coordinator at OSGF Links Two Programs**

Nino Kiknadze, the Law and Health Project director at the Open Society Georgia Foundation stepped into her new position in June, 2006. A lawyer by training, Nino also holds a Master in Public Administration from the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs. She will be working closely with OSGF's in-house rule of law and public health programs, and with the Law and Health Initiative at OSI-NY, to integrate law and human rights into the public health activities of the foundation. Nino visited the OSI-NY office in early July, met with PHP and Open Society Justice Initiative staff, and began developing OSGF's strategy for future work on law and health. We welcome Nino and look forward to working together. Contact: Nino Kiknadze, [nkiknadze@osgf.ge](mailto:nkiknadze@osgf.ge)

#### **Public Health Program Highlights Health and Advocacy Work at OSI Jamboree**

In June, the Public Health Program organized two workshops at the OSI Jamboree in Istanbul, Turkey. The first, "HIV/AIDS Policy Reform and Advocacy" evaluated efforts of Soros foundations network policy objectives and advocacy agendas with respect to HIV/AIDS, particularly focusing on promotion of issues around social inclusion, human rights, justice, and civil society monitoring. The second, "Open Society: What's Health Got to Do with It?" discussed concrete examples of why civil society engagement and a human rights framework are essential to making and implementing health policy for an open society. For more information on the sessions, please contact PHP director Françoise Girard, [fgirard@sorosny.org](mailto:fgirard@sorosny.org).

#### **Enabling Effective Pharmaceutical Procurement: Strategy and Coordination Meeting**

On July 27-28, the Public Health Program hosted the first in a series of strategy meetings on issues of access to essential medicines. The meeting, "Enabling Effective Pharmaceutical Procurement," brought together a range of stakeholders and experts to discuss practical ways to advance the procurement of essential medicines and medical supplies for developing countries. Recommendations for further work include advancing the transparency of medicine manufacturing and procurement; harmonizing product registration and formularies; strengthening and monitoring the global medicines supply chain; and creating an open database of relevant intellectual property. To receive a copy of the meeting report, please contact Sai Jahann at [sjahann@sorosny.org](mailto:sjahann@sorosny.org).

#### **OSI Maximizes Opportunities at the World Conference on Tobacco or Health**

OSI was actively engaged in events at the World Conference on Tobacco or Health July 12-15 in Washington, D.C. A second convening of tobacco control funder organizations, following an initial donor meeting in January 2006, met to identify opportunities for partnership and collaboration, maximize the effectiveness of current funding, catalyze new funding, and develop an international network of tobacco control funders. OSI grantees from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union—Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine also met to share lessons learned and brainstorm ways to sustain their activities. Finally, OSI grantees in Indonesia forged new partnerships with a number of advocates and donors interested in engaging in tobacco control. Contact: Sai Jahann [sjahann@sorosny.org](mailto:sjahann@sorosny.org)

#### **Upcoming Events:**

##### **AIDS Activism Funders' Briefing**

On September 26, PHW will co-sponsor a funders' briefing, "AIDS Activism Past and Present." Chris Collins, author of the PHW report *HIV/AIDS Policy in the United States: Monitoring the*

*UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS* will open the meeting with an overview of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States. A moderated discussion will follow presentations by the ACT UP Oral History Project and Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP). The event will be held at OSI (400 W. 59<sup>th</sup> Street) from 9:30 to 11am. Contact: Helena Choi, [hchoi@sorosny.org](mailto:hchoi@sorosny.org)

### **Annual Global Health Advisory Committee Meeting to be Held October 19-20 in New York**

The Global Health Advisory Committee (GHAC) will meet with Public Health Program staff on October 19-20 to review Public Health Program strategies, share feedback, and offer guidance on projects and initiatives. The Law and Health Initiative will provide an update and present its strategies for the upcoming year. Also among the topics to be discussed are strategies for civil society involvement in monitoring and controversies around routine HIV testing. Contact: Paola Deles, [pdeles@sorosny.org](mailto:pdeles@sorosny.org)

### **Coalition on Sex Work, Sexual Rights and Countering the Conservative Sexual Agenda**

Building off a year-long initiative to develop joint messaging and advocacy strategies around sex worker health and rights, the Urban Justice Center's Sex Workers Project, the Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE), the Alliance for Open Society International (AOSI), and SHARP will co-host a sex work/sexual rights policy meeting at the Open Society Institute to discuss updates on: litigation and advocacy around the anti-prostitution loyalty oath; continue discussions of laws and policies in the arenas of trafficking and sex work; and explore media/communications strategies for sex worker health and rights messaging. For more information on the September 19 meeting, please contact Sue Simon, [ssimon@sorosny.org](mailto:ssimon@sorosny.org).

### **Capacity Building for Health Budget Monitoring and Advocacy**

The Public Health Program will convene two workshops in Turkey focused on health budget monitoring and advocacy in September. The first is a technical training on health budget monitoring and analysis led by Teresa Guthrie of the Center for Economic Governance and AIDS in Africa and Helena Hofbauer from FUNDAR and the International Budget Project. OSI foundation partners in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan will be attending. In collaboration with the OSI Information Program, the second workshop in Antalya will focus on innovative information, communication and technology tools and strategies for advocacy on health resource monitoring results. The workshop will help NGO partners from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Pakistan, Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Nigeria develop more effective advocacy strategies. Contact: Ellen Liu, [eliu@sorosny.org](mailto:eliu@sorosny.org)

### **Launch of Full TB Reports in November**

Public Health Watch plans to launch the full versions of all five TB reports and a "compilation volume" at this year's International Union Against TB and Lung Disease (IUATLD) Meeting in Paris. PHW will be organizing a briefing with journalists as well as a larger reception on November 1, which will feature remarks by George Soros, Dr. Jorge Sampaio, former president of Portugal and UN Special Envoy on TB, PHW TB researchers, and representatives from the Global Fund, WHO, and Stop TB. Contact: Emily Bell, [ebell@sorosny.org](mailto:ebell@sorosny.org).

### **First Salzburg Palliative Care Nursing Course**

On October 1-7, the first Salzburg Seminar for Nursing Education in Palliative Care will be held at the Schloss Arenberg in Salzburg, Austria. Forty-four participants have been selected from countries in Eastern Europe. Participants will be either faculty members in nursing colleges

or clinical nursing leaders who direct development and provide onsite training in hospital centers. Contact: Kiera Hepford, [khepford@sorosny.org](mailto:khepford@sorosny.org)

**International Palliative Care Initiative and Law & Health Initiative Convene in Africa**

IPCI and LAHI, in collaboration with the Open Society Foundation for Southern Africa (OSF-SA), will hold the first planning meetings with palliative care and legal service providers and human rights leaders in Cape Town on October 15 and 16. The goal of the meeting is to support a series of partnerships between hospices and legal advocates in South Africa. The alliance would make information available to both legal and palliative care providers, allowing them to advocate more effectively for their clients. Contact: Kiera Hepford, [khepford@sorosny.org](mailto:khepford@sorosny.org)

**European Roma Rights Centre Launches Report on Discrimination of Roma in Access to Health Care**

The European Roma Rights Centre (EERC) will launch its report "Ambulance Not on the Way: The Disgrace of Health Care for Roma in Europe" at an OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting side event on October 4 in Warsaw. The report explores major systemic causes for exclusion of Roma from access to health care as well as various degrees of provision of inferior medical services and documents discriminatory practices and other forms of human rights abuse in health care provision as well as exclusion from access to health care. Research was conducted in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Spain in 2005 and includes research findings compiled in recent years in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Croatia, Greece, France, Italy, Kosovo, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia. The publication will be available on the EERC website, [www.errc.org](http://www.errc.org). Contact: Eva Maria Foldes, [efoldes@osi.hu](mailto:efoldes@osi.hu)