

The Ontario HIV Treatment Network

Annual Report | 2004



Sean Rourke, Jay Browne



OHTN staff



Priority Initiatives Program ODSP Strategy Conference participants



Rick Kennedy, Fanta Ongoiba, William Lau



Peter Marchand



HIV Information Infrastructure Project Staff and Advisory Committee

MISSION

To optimize the quality of life of people living with HIV in Ontario and to promote excellence and innovation in treatment, research, education and prevention through a collaborative network of excellence representing consumers, providers, researchers and other stakeholders.

VALUES STATEMENT

Caring, Respect, Compassion and Responsibility

(for and towards people with HIV/AIDS)

Support and Sustain Excellence and Innovation

(in HIV research, care and treatment)

Foster **Leadership** and build **Integrity** and **Accountability**

(as an organization)

Letter from the President


I was honoured to join the OHTN Board of Directors in January of 2003 as a community representative. The OHTN is an organization of highly talented individuals, all of whom are working together to fulfill an important and ambitious mandate. Our funder, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, and all of the OHTN's stakeholder groups, have a shared vision: we are all committed to improving the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS in Ontario.

The 2003-04 year has been a year of change and renewal for the OHTN. Several new faces have appeared around the board table and this has created a new vibrancy, sense of purpose and ownership at the Board level. I myself moved into the role of President in March of 2004, replacing the departing Sean Rourke, who had announced his candidacy for the position of Executive Director of the OHTN. In June 2004, the Board unanimously adopted the Search Committee's recommendation to appoint Sean as the OHTN's new Scientific and Executive Director. Sean brings to his new position both his experience as one of Ontario's most distinguished HIV researchers and his long history of valued volunteer involvement with the OHTN. The Board has identified a need to build the OHTN's profile as one of Canada's leading institutions devoted to cutting-edge HIV research. Sean's appointment is part of the Board's longer term strategy to meet this goal. The OHTN and the HIV community in Ontario are fortunate indeed to have someone of his stature stepping into this key role.

I also wish to add a special thanks to our outgoing Interim Executive Director, Jay Browne. Jay has a long and highly distinguished record of service to the Province of Ontario in the fight against HIV/AIDS. We were able to persuade Jay to leave retirement for a period of time to assist the OHTN through a challenging period of transition. He has done a marvellous job. I know that all of us at the OHTN are immensely grateful to him for his unflinching service to the organization in the last year.

The OHTN, as a multi-stakeholder-driven group, is uniquely endowed with the capacity to improve the lives of people living with HIV and AIDS. This represents an extraordinary opportunity and challenge for all of us. We are on the verge of a period of dynamic growth and are poised to realize our potential as a leading national and even international force in the field of HIV research. I applaud the continued collective efforts of the Board, volunteers and staff and am looking forward to the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Flanagan', written in a cursive style.

William Flanagan
President, Board of Directors

Letter from the Interim Executive Director

A great deal has been accomplished during the past year at the OHTN and these accomplishments are reflected in the pages of this Report. I am very pleased to report that the organization has emerged from its recent period of change with a renewed sense of purpose and vision. The Board of Directors, volunteers and staff are all to be congratulated for their perseverance in seeing the OHTN through this challenging period.

To highlight a few of the most significant events and accomplishments of the 2003-04 period:

External Evaluation: At the request of the AIDS Bureau, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, an external evaluation was conducted of the OHTN and its programs. The resulting report contained numerous recommendations on issues in administration and the three program areas. All of these recommendations have been responded to or acted upon by managers, staff, board members and committees, as appropriate.

Board and Senior Management Retreat: The Board of Directors has been revitalized over the past year. A highly successful two-day retreat in the fall of 2003 served to enhance the working relationship between the Board Members and Senior Managers. The retreat focused on Board development, governance issues, the Board membership selection process and communications between the Board, its Committees, the HIV community, stakeholders and staff members. The Board also used the retreat as an opportunity to revisit and renew the OHTN's values and mission statement.

Executive Director Search: Perhaps the most significant undertaking of the past year was the search for a permanent Executive Director for the OHTN. From among a field of very strong candidates, the Search Committee recruited Dr. Sean Rourke as Scientific and Executive Director. Dr. Rourke has been a long-time staunch supporter of the OHTN and resigned his position as President of the Board in order to become a candidate for this position. The OHTN will be in excellent hands under Dr. Rourke's leadership and I predict that the organization will move to a new level of success under his direction.

Returning to active service at the OHTN and in the HIV/AIDS community has been a wonderful learning experience and an enjoyable year. It is gratifying to see all three programs flourishing and fulfilling their mandates in spite of the challenges the organization has faced. I have enjoyed working with the AIDS Bureau once again. Special thanks to Bill Flanagan our President, the Executive Committee and to the entire Board, senior managers and staff for giving me this privilege.

I will once again hang up my hat ... until we meet again.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Browne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "B".

Jay Browne, Interim Executive Director

Financial Statement 2003-2004

As Chair of the Finance Committee,

I am pleased to submit the

audited statements of the OHTN

for fiscal year 2003 - 2004.

I wish to thank the members of

the Finance Committee for their

hard work and dedication to

the vision of the OHTN.

~ Sean Andress

Note:

These statements were audited by

PricewaterhouseCoopers and

approval from the OHTN Board

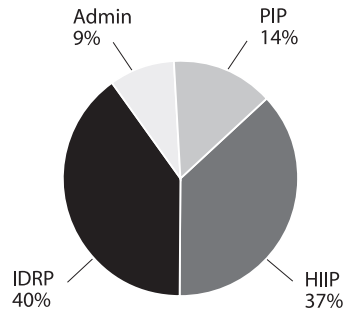
of Directors is still pending.

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	1,144,931	1,430,351
Accounts receivable	26,258	39,602
Prepays	16,405	15,569
	<hr/> 1,187,594	<hr/> 1,485,522
CAPITAL ASSETS	106,877	115,060
	<hr/> 1,294,471	<hr/> 1,600,582
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,187,594	1,485,522
Deferred revenue	106,877	115,060
	<hr/> 1,294,471	<hr/> 1,600,582

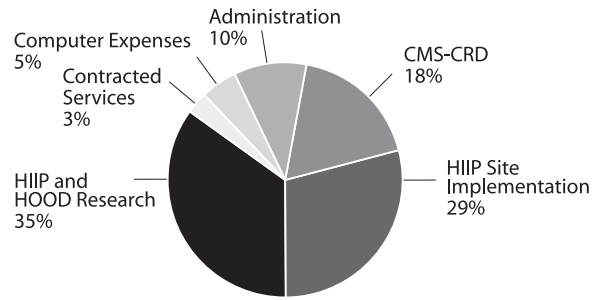
	2004	2003
	\$	\$
REVENUE		
Grant from AIDS Bureau	8,000,000	8,000,000
Less: unspent grant	60,680	54,467
	<hr/> 7,939,320	<hr/> 7,945,533
Amortization of deferred revenue	58,478	77,161
Interest	56,539	47,725
	<hr/> 8,054,337	<hr/> 8,070,419
 EXPENDITURES		
Priority Initiatives Program	997,045	1,037,823
Investigator Driven Research Program	3,012,192	2,901,433
HIV Information Infrastructure Project and HIV Ontario Observational Database	1,422,071	1,696,129
Salaries and benefits	1,927,305	1,880,835
Office administration and rent	637,246	477,038
Amortization	58,478	77,161
	<hr/> 8,054,337	<hr/> 8,070,419

OHTN Resource Allocation

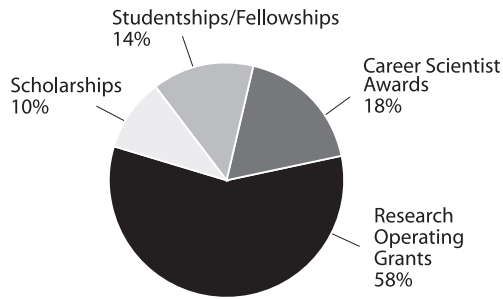
How Our Dollars Are Spent



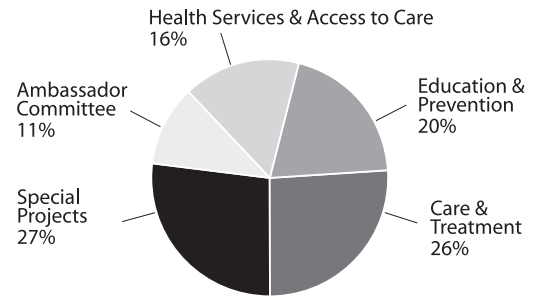
HIV Information Infrastructure Project



Investigator Driven Research Program



Priority Initiatives Program



OHTN Staff

*The following are OHTN's staff
in our three program areas:
Investigator Driven Research
Program (IDRP); Priority Initiatives
Program (PIP); and HIV
Information Infrastructure Project
(HIIP) – including the HIV Ontario
Observational Database (HOOD).*

Jay Browne, PhD

Interim Executive Director

Amy Andrews (to July 03)

research assistant, HIIP

Susan Barruch

administrative coordinator

Ahmed Bayoumi, MD

director of research, HIIP

Linda Brown

research administrative assistant, HIIP

Kevin Challacombe

senior data technician, HIIP

Beverly Deutsch

administrative assistant, PIP

Robert Duck

director, HIIP

Tom Fleming

research administrator, IDRP

Luisa Frescura

research assistant, HIIP

Tonia Forte (to Sept. 03)

research assistant, HIIP

Cristina Goia (to Dec. 03)

biostatistician, HIIP

Paul Henman

project manager, HIIP

Robert Hudder

database administrator, HIIP

Teij Janki

IT coordinator

William Lau

coordinator, PIP

Zun Lee (to Nov. 03)

clinic relations coordinator, HIIP

Rose Lising

administrative assistant, IDRP

Carol Major

research coordinator, IDRP

Peter Marchand

financial coordinator

Faye Marcotte

training coordinator, HIIP

Greg Mitchell

business analyst

Sandra Muhanuka

researcher, HIIP

Daniel Neibert

data & informatics coordinator, HIIP

Michelle Ostan (to Oct. 03)

research & informatics
coordinator, HIIP

Barry Plant

clinic relations coordinator, HIIP

Kam Roshan

senior business analyst, HIIP

Joe Sorbara

data technician, HIIP

Chelvi Srishankar

help desk/implementation
support, HIIP

Ann Toth

help desk coordinator, HIIP

Sergiy Tyshchenko

programmer/tech support

Kevin Yemm

data technician, HIIP

Misa Yoshizaki

receptionist

HOOD Data Collectors

Daryl Bell

Fran Clark (to July 03)

Brenda Done

Michelle Ellis

Lisa Green (to Aug. 03)

Gail Howlett

Jane McKinley

Anja McNeil

Pat Rivet

Suzanne Sharples

Colleen Viertelhaussen (to Jan. 04)

Beth Watson-Brooker

OHTN Volunteers 2003-2004

The following volunteers from across Ontario represent the Ontario HIV Treatment Network's five stakeholder groups: people living with HIV, researchers, clinicians, AIDS service organizations, and government. The work of the OHTN is made possible through the vital contribution of our dedicated volunteers. If we have omitted any name in error, we apologize.

***Note:** All volunteers are Ontario-based unless otherwise noted.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Flanagan, JD, LLM (President)
Brenda Done (Vice-President)
Sean Andress
Jonathan Angel, MD
Karen Copeland, PhD
Tony Di Pede
Jennifer Furtney
John Goodhew, MD
Rick Kennedy
Vicki Kett
Don Kilby, MD
Rob MacKay
Frank McGee
Laverne Monette
Anita Rachlis, MD
Sean Rourke, PhD
Stephen Squibb
Carol Swantee

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Sean Andress
Vicki Kett

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Sean Andress
Brenda Done
William Flanagan, JD LLM
Sean Rourke, PhD
Stephen Squibb

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

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Rick Kennedy
Vicki Kett
Rob MacKay

HIIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Maureen Bratkiw
Patrick Cupido
Robert Desarmia
Tony Di Pede
Peter Ford, MD
Mary Grondin
Steve Harris
Maggie Lopes
Mona Loutfy, MD
Robert Remis, MD, PhD
Rob MacKay
Jim Truax
Pius White

Ex-Officio Members

Mario Cordoba
Mark Fisher
Frank McGee
Carol Swantee
Anita Rachlis, MD

Corresponding Members

Brent Fraser
Ken Rosenthal, PhD
Larry Stump

HIIP Research

Advisory Committee

Robert Remis, MD, PhD (Chair)
Ahmed Bayoumi, MD
Jim Brunton, MD
Robert Desarmia
Maggie Lopes
Mona Loutfy, MD
Peggy Millson, MD

Ted Myers, PhD
Jackie Roberts
Pius White
Wendy Wobeser, MD

Technical Requirements Committee

Mark Fisher (Chair)
Mario Cordoba
Don Kilby, MD
Rob MacKay

Legal Ethical Committee

Rob MacKay (Chair)
Tony Di Pede
Daniel Doane
Don Kilby, MD

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Brenda Done
Eudice Goldberg, MD
Rob MacKay
Frank McGee
Laverne Monette
Mathew Perry
Stanley Read, MD, PhD
Ron Rosenes
Robert Vanidour

Care and Treatment Working Group

Stanley Read, MD, PhD (Chair)
Reina Bendayan, PhD
Louise Binder, LLD
Kymm Feldman, MD
Sean Hosein
Francis Mandy
Anita Rachlis, MD
Paul Sandstrom, PhD
Carol Swantee

Ambassador Committee

Anita Rachlis, MD (Chair)
Pamela Bowes
Frank McGee
Susan Paetkau

Education and Prevention Working Group

Robert Vanidour (Chair)
Barry Adam, PhD
Eudice Goldberg, MD
Kim Johnson
Vicki Kett
Lynne Leonard, PhD
Ted Myers, PhD
Esther Tharao

Health Services and Access to Care Working Group

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Pamela Bowes
Roy Cain, PhD
Anne Marie DiCenso
Sarah Flicker
Jennifer Furtney
Ken King
Deborah Kopansky-Giles, DC
Alan Li, MD
Mathew Perry

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mark Wainberg, PhD (Chair)
(Montreal)
Karen Copeland, PhD (ex officio)
Sean Rourke, PhD (ex officio)

Basic Science

Richard Harrigan, PhD (Vancouver)
Sean Hosein
Alan Landay, PhD (Chicago)

Clinical Science

Rodger Macarthur, MD (Michigan)
Anita Rachlis, MD
Deborah Randall Woods
Fiona Smail, MD

Epidemiology

Chris Archibald, MD
Eduard Beck, PhD (Montreal)
Robert Remis, MD, PhD
Esther Tharao

Socio Behavioral

Barry Adam, PhD
Louise Balfour, PhD
Thomas Patterson, PhD (California)
Winston Husbands, PhD

Research Conference

Planning Committee 2004

Sean Rourke, PhD (Co-Chair)
Brian Cornelson, MD (Co-Chair)
Jonathan Angel, MD
Thomas Egdorf
Saara Greene
Gregory Robinson, MD
Rick Kennedy
Lynne Leonard, PhD
Rob MacKay
Frank McGee
Steffanie Strathdee, PhD
Mona Loutfy, MD

Investigator Driven Research Program

The Investigator-Driven Research Program (IDRP) distributes \$3 million per year to support Ontario-based HIV research through a peer-reviewed program of operating grants, salary support and training awards. Funding recommendations are made to the Board of Directors by the Scientific Review Committee, which is composed of both scientists and community representatives.

The IDRP continues to evolve in order to meet the changing needs of the Ontario HIV research community. Two new award categories were introduced this past year (details are available on the OHTN Web site): Career Investigator Transition Awards (CITA) and Junior Investigator Development Awards (JIDA)

The IDRP staff completed a survey of the OHTN Career Scientist and Scholarship award holders. Survey results indicated that OHTN investment in career support awards has had a major positive impact on the HIV research environment in Ontario. Responses indicate that this support has significantly enhanced awardees' ability to compete for peer-reviewed funding, increase publication productivity and improve interactions with community-based organizations.

The IDRP relies on the volunteers that serve on the Scientific Review Committee. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all SRC members for their work over the past year. In particular, thanks to departing Chair Dr. Mark Wainberg for his contributions over the past three years. We welcome incoming Chair Dr. Steffanie Strathdee to her new role and look forward to working with her in the years ahead.



Steffanie Strathdee

The OHTN is pleased to welcome Dr. Steffanie Strathdee as Chair of the Scientific Review Committee. Dr. Strathdee is an established, internationally recognized scientist, who began her training in Toronto under the leadership of Drs. Stanley Read and Randy Coates. From her early days as a volunteer at Casey House, through her work at the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV, at Johns Hopkins University, and now as Professor and Harold Simon Chair and Chief of the Division of International Health and Cross Cultural Medicine at the University of California (San Diego), Steffanie has remained firmly committed to the IDRP philosophy of the integration of research streams and is a strong proponent of community participation in the peer review process.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Major".

Carol Major, Research Coordinator

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Fleming".

Tom Fleming, Research Administrator – IDRP

Investigator Driven Research Program funded research 2003-2004

The following researchers were awarded funds by the IDRP between April 2003 and March 2004

RESEARCH OPERATING GRANT

Ahmed Bayoumi, MD

The Cost-Effectiveness of Treating People Living with HIV: A Program of Research \$144,627 (2 year)

Alan Cochrane, PhD

Identifying cis and trans-determinants of HIV-1 RNA Processing and Transport \$244,000 (2 year)

Charu Kaushic, PhD

Interaction of HIV-1 with cells of the female genital tract and the effect of sex hormones (Renewal) \$140,000 (2 year)

Clifford Lingwood, PhD

Role of glycosphingolipids in HIV infection \$160,000 (2 year)

Kelly MacDonald, MD

Using the Molecular Structure of Virus-Neutralizing HIV Epitopes to Custom Design Effective Synthetic Vaccines \$250,000 (2 year)

CAREER SCIENTIST AWARDS

Jonathan Angel , MD

HIV Immunopathogenesis and the Role of Therapeutic Vaccination \$71,500/year (5 year)

Ahmed Bayoumi, MD

HIV Health Services Research: Efficiency, Equity, Access, and Outcomes (Renewal) \$71,500/year (2 year)

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Curtis Cooper, PhD

Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of a Double-Boosted Protease Inhibitor Regimen in HIV-HCV Co-Infected Individuals \$51,500 (1 year)

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Jason Ramsay, PhD

Using Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) to Investigate the Recovery of Neural Substrates in HIV/AIDS \$41,500/year (2 year)

STUDENTSHIP AWARDS

Andrea Anonychuk

Stressful Relationship Events in Intimate Partnerships and High-Risk Sexual Behaviour Among Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) \$19,530/year (2 year)

Eve Sik Yu Cheuk

Identification and Characterization of Novel HLA-Restricted Viral CTL Epitopes using "Humanized" Transgenic Mice \$19,530/year (2 year)

Gloria Lee

Functional Expression of P-Glycoprotein and the Multidrug Resistance Proteins and their Transport of Protease Inhibitors in the Brain \$19,530/year (2 year)

Janina Jiang

Genital Mucosal Long Term Humoral Defense and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Vaccination \$19,530/year (2 year)

Erin MacDonald

Influence of Sex Hormones on HIV Infection in Women \$19,530/year (2 year)

Meredith McLaren

Regulation of Rev Activity by Sam68: Investigating the Mechanism \$19,530/year (2 year)

Patrick Ronaldson

Mechanism Involved in the Transport of anti-HIV Drugs in the Brain: Relevance of HIV-1 Associated Dementia \$19,530/year (2 year)

Wendy Supapol

The Impact of GBV-C coinfection of perinatal HIV transmission \$19,530/year (2 year)

Priority Initiatives Program

The Priority Initiatives Program (PIP) supports time-limited initiatives that fall within the OHTN mandate and are consistent with priorities as identified by our stakeholders.

In 2003, PIP funded 11 projects in the total amount of \$858,208. Projects funded this year are listed for your review. They are diverse in nature, ranging from rejuvenating HIV prevention for gay and bisexual men, a randomized controlled clinical trial, to accessing the housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) in Ontario.

We witnessed substantial outcomes from a number of recently funded initiatives including a successful strategic conference that addressed PHAs issues with the Ontario Disability Support Program, an HIV-positive youth roundtable disseminated the research finding of the Positive Youth Project and preliminary results from the anal cancer screening study.

The Ambassador Committee presented its study of antiretroviral utilization in Ontario from 1998 to 2002 at several conferences and to the Drug Quality and Therapeutic Committee, as well as developed a proposal for widening PHAs access to antiretroviral medications.

The OHTN Board of Directors demonstrated leadership by establishing a Board Directed Fund to respond to emerging priorities including commissioning a study on HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination from the perspective of African and Caribbean communities in Toronto and a paper on issues relating to the shortage of HIV primary care physicians in Ontario.

These are only a few examples of how PIP takes a strong role in initiating community-relevant projects that aim to impact both policy and practice. In 2004, PIP will continue to modify its approach in effectively addressing priority areas in Ontario.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers for their expertise, dedication and contributions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Lau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and "L".

William Lau, PIP Coordinator

Priority Initiatives Program funded research 2003-2004

The following projects were awarded one-time funding by PIP between April 2003 and March 2004

Barry Adam , PhD

Rejuvenating HIV Prevention for
Gay and Bisexual Men
\$199,978

Louise Balfour, PhD

Improving health care, treatment
preparedness, treatment adherence,
and quality of life among HIV and
HIV/HCV co-infected patients
\$75,000

Roy Cain, PhD

Mental Health and Wellbeing of
Aboriginal PHAs
\$3,500

Liviana Calzavara, PhD

HIV/AIDS Stigma, Denial,
Discrimination and Fear: Experiences
and Responses of People from
African and Caribbean Communities
Living in Toronto
\$150,000

William Cameron, MD

The CHART Study: A Randomized
Controlled Clinical Trial of
CpG 7909 Adjunct Treatment for
HIV Infection during Initiation of
Antiretroviral Therapy: Evaluation
of inducible HIV-specific immunity,
latent HIV burden, and post-
treatment HIV control
\$84,000

Peter DeRoche, PhD

Art Therapy as a Psychotherapeutic
Support System for Persons Living
with HIV/AIDS
\$83,580

Alan Li, MD

Improving Access to Mental Health
Services for Immigrant and Refugee
PHAs: proposal development
\$15,000

Ontario AIDS Network

Recruitment of HIV Physicians
in Ontario
\$50,000

Laura Park-Wyllie, PhD

An Evaluation of Dosage
Adjustment Interventions on
Patient Outcomes for Adverse
Drug Interactions
\$57,150

Irving Salit, MD

Screening for HIV-associated
anal cancer
\$65,000

Ruthann Tucker

Assessing the Housing Needs of
PHAs in Ontario Today and Into
the Future: A Community-based
Research Response to Housing
\$75,000

HIV Information Infrastructure Project

Activities related to the HIV Information Infrastructure Project have been dominated by the results of an external review that was performed at the request of the AIDS Bureau as part of the OHTN's five-year organizational review. The external review provided feedback for each of the OHTN's program areas but was particularly valuable to the HIV Information Infrastructure Project. A key recommendation of the review has guided the HIIP Project staff for the past six months. The recommendation was "that project staff undertake the necessary work to achieve the project's fundamental milestone — i.e., to ensure that data will flow from the medically significant portions of the CMS into the CRD for a non-trivial number of PHAs — and to attain this milestone in a timely fashion."

To accomplish this goal the HIIP staff created a comprehensive project plan that included key elements required for success:

- activation of all project components including the Electronic Medical Record in the three beta test sites
- back population of patient data
- gaining patient informed consent
- data extraction and transmission

Comprehensive testing of the extract and transmission process has been successfully completed from each of the participating sites and the achievement of this significant milestone was reported to the Board at the end of June 2004.

The OHTN is grateful to the dedication and hard work of the staff at the three participating sites: St. Clair Medical Associates, the Sunnybrook and Women's College Hospital Outpatient Clinic and the University of Ottawa Health Services. The staff at these sites has proven to be tremendously supportive, incredibly patient and highly energetic as they have worked side by side with OHTN staff.

I cannot speak highly enough of the HIIP project staff for their success in setting and achieving this key milestone. Overcoming the challenges encountered on the way to demonstrating proof of concept of this project has affirmed the talent and dedication of the project team.

In addition, the entire HIIP staff expresses their appreciation to the members of the HIIP Advisory Committee for their thoughtful guidance throughout the year.

HOOD version 2.0

The HOOD team, under the direction of the OHTN's Research Director, Dr. Ahmed Bayoumi, achieved a second outstanding accomplishment during the year. The external review recommended the development of electronic capture and entry of HOOD data to replace the manual process used for the past several years. This modification has been rapidly accomplished, tested both internally and in the field and is currently being implemented at HOOD sites across the province. The migration from paper-based to electronic data capture and entry will provide more accurate, comprehensive and complete data for the Central Research Database. It will also provide HOOD sites with data for local HIV research.

Congratulations to the HOOD and Research staff teams on this outstanding accomplishment.

In conclusion, the past year has been both a challenging and a rewarding one. HIIP is about to be implemented across the province and the Central Research Database is about to become a reality.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Duck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert Duck, Director of HIIP

OHTN 6th Annual Research Conference

Once again, the OHTN Research Conference was a huge success! On November 4th and 5th, 2003, nearly 300 participants came together to share research findings, learn from international experts and exchange perspectives on a host of HIV-related issues. Under the guidance of the Conference Chair, Dr Sean Rourke and the dedicated planning committee, the program was designed to encourage and foster dialogue between PHAs, researchers, health care providers, policy makers and community representatives. With 12 thematic oral sessions, nine theme-based poster sessions with guided tours, several issue-based discussions, a selection of workshops and three internationally renowned keynote speakers, the two day meeting was packed with energy, excitement and information exchange. The keynote speakers, Dr Susan Kippax (Australia), Dr Neil Schneiderman (Miami) and Michael O'Shaughnessy (Vancouver) provided thoughtful and stimulating plenary discussions. The Honourable George Smitherman, newly appointed Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, provided his own thoughts on the future directions of HIV/AIDS research and community activity in Ontario.

The conference marked the unveiling of a plaque recognizing the enormous contributions of past and present volunteer Board members, as well as an occasion to offer our appreciation to Dr Mark Wainberg, the outgoing Chair of the Scientific Review Committee.

The Research Conference is a unique and rewarding experience for all our stakeholders as knowledge transfer across disciplines and between stakeholders takes place in a friendly and open environment. We look forward to yet another outstanding event in 2004! Mark your calendars for November 25th and 26th.

OHTN 6th Annual Research Conference

Delta Chelsea Hotel, Toronto

November 3-4, 2003



Steffanie Strathdee, William Cameron,
Tom Patterson, Neil Schneiderman



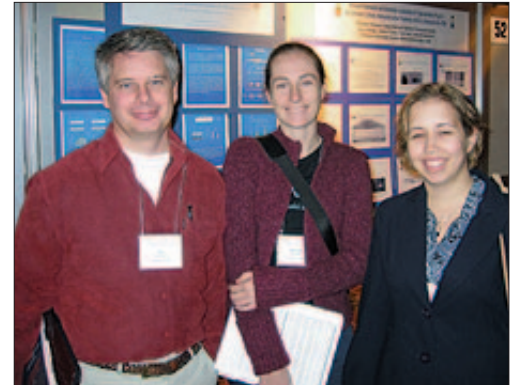
Eudice Goldberg, Tiffany Veniot, Sarah Flicker,
Paul Saulnier



Michael O'Shaughnessy, Jay Browne



Ian Lubek, Susan Kippax



Alan Cochrane, Meredith McLaren, Jodi Bubenik



Liviana Calzavara, Bruce Moor, Lynne Leonard, Ted Myers



Senait Teclum, Sarun Touch, Beverley Antle, Dina Epale



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