



Canadian Society for International Health

10TH Canadian Conference on International Health

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Call For Abstracts

The Right to Health: Influencing the Global Agenda

How Research, Advocacy and Action
can shape our future

Organized by the **Canadian Society for International Health** (technical representative for the Pan-American Health Organization).

10th Canadian Conference on International Health (CCIH) October 26-29, Ottawa, Canada

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

(Please write legibly)

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Is the primary Author a Student? Yes: No: Your abstract is: Research-related: Program/project-related:

Keywords: Gender and HIV/AIDS, International Institute, Training, Research, and Networking, Policy Based Research _____

ABSTRACT (MAXIMUM 400 WORDS)

GENDER AND HIV/AIDS: INFLUENCING THE GLOBAL AGENDA

Carol Amaratunga, Jacqueline Gahagan, Aideen Reynolds

Since 1999, the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health, in collaboration with international research and program partners, e.g. the Commonwealth Secretariat, CIDA, Health Canada, CIHR, IDRC, etc. has served as a catalyst for the creation of an International Institute on Gender and HIV/AIDS (IIGH/A). While two decades of research has vastly improved our understanding of HIV transmission and the management of AIDS-related chronic illnesses, there is an urgent need to influence the global agenda and to build a transformative learning culture for decision makers and researchers as they build gender sensitive strategies for AIDS prevention, care, and treatment policies.

Learning Objective: the workshop will provide a forum for researchers, policy makers and funding agencies to jointly identify and contribute new ideas and knowledge to the 3 proposed mandate areas of the IIGH/A: training, research and global networking. Through the workshop, participants will address how sex (biology) and gender (culture) contribute to, and exacerbate, the spread of HIV for women and men, girls and boys. The participants will review and contribute to the preliminary IIGH/A curriculum, selected case studies, networking models and identification of potential funding partners.

Audience of Interest: To ensure both South South and North South dialogue and exchange, the workshop will be of interest to Canadian and international conference participants with interest and expertise in HIV/AIDS. A special focus is on Sub Saharan Africa and other countries most directly affected by the HIV AIDS pandemic.

Session Outline: The CCIH workshop will begin with an overview of our experience to date in building an international consortium and network of gender and HIV/AIDS policy and program specialists. In this workshop we will review the outcomes of four IIGH/A feasibility and design, curriculum design and field test workshops which took place in 2002,2003 in Halifax, Barcelona, and Arusha respectively. Together we will identify examples of international case studies and potential faculty for the proposed pilot institute in 2004. Workshop participants will be engaged to help strengthen the curriculum case studies, and to advance the vision/sustainability of the IIGH/A.

Bio Statements

Carol Amaratunga has worked internationally in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America for 25 years in policy research and project management, with a special focus on the health and economic needs of women, girls and families in coastal and rural communities. She served with the United Nations in Sri Lanka, the Nova Scotia Department of Health, and Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD), as a program director and member of senior management. She was the Executive Director and Associate Professor (Research) of the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health, Dalhousie University from 1996-2003. Carol recently accepted the inaugural chair Ontario Women's Health Council/University of Ottawa Chair in Women's Health.

Jacqueline Gahagan has worked in the area of HIV/AIDS for over 15 years. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the School of Health and Human Performance at Dalhousie University where she teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate levels

in the Health Education Program. Jacqueline was recently appointed by Federal Minister of Health, Anne McLellan, to the Ministerial Council on HIV/AIDS, and also serves on the Nova Scotia Advisory Commission on AIDS.

Aideen Reynolds, Research Officer at the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health, has been coordinating activities related to the development of an International Institute on Gender and HIV/AIDS (IIGH/A), including organization of two international workshops convened in Halifax, Nova Scotia and a Satellite Session at the World AIDS Conference in Barcelona. Aideen is Project Coordinator on a two-year research project funded by the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research that is examining the sexual health needs of young males in Nova Scotia and is an active representative on the Nova Scotia Roundtable on Youth Sexual Health.