



**CAPITAL AREA  
VACCINE EFFORT**  
www.aidsvaccine.org

## Capital Area Vaccine Effort September 11th Meeting

### In Attendance

- Kofi Okomeah kakomeah@gmail.com
- Sandra Sitar sitars@mail.nih.gov
- Sara Jones jonessara@mail.nih.gov
- David Mariner dmariner@dccare.org
- Zenovia Wright Zenovia@aidsvaccine.org
- Sterling Washington swashington@uhupil.org
- Colin Gillespie thingscreative@yahoo.com
- Nadine Chabrier nadine@womenscollective.org
- Thao Nguyen thao@womenscollective.org

### Discussion

**VRC Update:** The VRC has several vaccine recruitment events coming up in the next few weeks, including educational talks at several local area universities. Please contact Sara Jones or Sandra Sitar for more information on how to get involved.

The Therapeutic Clinical Trial for HIV positive persons was originally set to enroll 15 participants. The response to this trial was so great that the trial's enrollment was extended to include 17 participants. Enrollment for this trial has closed but there will be another trial TBA. Sandra will make arrangements with Dr. Casouza, the PI for this study, to talk with CAVE regarding the findings of this study.

**Membership Recruitment:** Zenovia reached out to those individuals who were previously active in CAVE to inquire about why they left the group, what could be done to re-enlist them, and any suggestions/feedback they could offer. Responses included that CAVE possibly hold meetings during the day and/or consider alternate meeting days, ensure that we utilize email lists to send meeting and event notices, hold an orientation to the CAB, and create a listserv to talk to enhance communication. The group felt that while a daytime meeting would most likely attract members to the group, it was counter productive because members who have been currently attending are unavailable during the day and the group would most likely take on a different dynamic. In response to requests for listservs and notices to increase communication, the website serves as the mechanism used to communicate with other members. We suggest that anyone who is not registered, but interested in keeping in touch with CAVE create an account at [www.aidsvaccine.org](http://www.aidsvaccine.org). We will continue to ensure the website is kept up-to-date and information is disseminated in a timely fashion.

In regards to a membership orientation, there are materials available. We would be more than happy to conduct a new member orientation as new members arrive.

The letter to trial participants educating them about CAVE and encouraging them to participate, drafted by Colin and Zenovia, will be sent to VRC volunteers by Sandra by 9/30/2007. The VRC also uses a YouTube page and the Friends of the VRC listserv to inform the community of their events as well as encourage participants about CAVE.

Sterling suggested that the VRC participate in the CNN YouTube debate to ensure the candidates get the message that their constituents are concerned about the state of vaccine research as well as for visibility.

**DC Center Event:** On Monday, October 1, 2007, The Center, Home for GLBT in Metro DC, will be hosting an "Update On HIV Vaccine Research" at Dakota Cowgirl/Titan from 7:00 -8:30 PM. This will be an interactive, educational discussion about vaccines, research and the status of the research efforts. Speakers include Dr. Barney Graham of the Vaccine Research Center, David Mariner of the DC Care Consortium and Scott Simpson, former co-chair of CAVE. All are welcome (and encouraged) to attend.

Latino HIV/AIDS Awareness Day: October 15, 2007 is Latino HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. CAVE is looking to collaborate with the National Latino AIDS Awareness Day Steering Committee as well as La Clinica to host a Spanish Language event for Latino HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. We will approach Mario of the VRC to assist with the translation of materials and coordination of the event.

**AIDS Walk:** CAVE will be participating in the AIDS Walk on October 6, 2007 along with the DC Fights Back and VRC teams. The meeting time and place are TBD. We will send out an email a few days before the event with details of where will be meeting on Freedom Plaza as well as cell phone numbers to reach us in case you have difficulty finding us.

**World AIDS Day:** The VRC is considering holding a film showing/reception at Bus Boys and Poets. Also on this day, DCFB and Our Place will be showing "Life Support" at Westminster Presbyterian. David(?) will look into a possible collaboration for these events.

**Walk for the Homeless:** The Walk for the Homeless will take place on the National Mall, Washington DC on Sunday November 12th. The walk benefits 180 community based organizations including a number of HIV/AIDS organizations. We discussed the possibility of participating as a group for this event to benefit DC CARE Consortium.

**Expanding the CAVE Mission Statement:** Members have expressed interest in learning about and advocating HIV prevention means in addition to vaccines. In order to do this, we will need to make adjustments to our mission statement which currently only addresses vaccine research has a potential means for HIV prevention. This change comes at a time when AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC) is now moving to support all prevention methods. David will re-draft the CAVE mission statement to encompass all prevention avenues and allow CAVE the flexibility to explore all options as they become available.

**NEXT MEETING** Our next meeting will be October 9<sup>th</sup> at the offices of Us Helping Us at 6:30 PM. Us Helping Us is located at 3636 Georgia Avenue NW, very close to the Georgia Ave Petworth Station Metro Stop.

## Contacts

---

- |                    |                             |                |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| • Ali Ahmad        | aahmad4@gmu.edu             |                |
| • Nadine Chabrier  | nadine@womenscollective.org |                |
| • Colin Gillespie  | thingscreative@yahoo.com    | (240) 416-6207 |
| • Diane Johnson    | johnsondr@mail.nih.gov      | (301) 402-8832 |
| • Katrina Jones    | kjones@carlvogelcenter.org  |                |
| • Sara Jones       | jonessara@mail.nih.gov      |                |
| • Yolanda Lewis    | ylewis@hivresearch.org      | (301) 251-8351 |
| • Meg Kells-Murphy | megkells@gmail.com          |                |
| • David Mariner    | dmariner@dccare.org         | (202) 223-9550 |
| • Thao Nguyen      | thao@womenscollective.org   |                |
| • Dan O'Neill      | danielfoneill@gmail.com     |                |
| • Kofi Akomeah     | kakomeah@gmail.com          | (301) 873-0201 |
| • Evelyn Sellers   | 2goneson@msn.com            | (202) 726-7594 |
| • Sandra Sitar     | sitars@mail.nih.gov         | (301) 594-8569 |
| • Kyle Snyder      | ksnyder03@hotmail.com       | (202) 316-4500 |
| • Julie Wise       | wise.julie@gmail.com        | (202) 615-7485 |
| • Katie West       | kwest@path.org              |                |
| • Kristin Wunder   | kwunder07@cityyear.org      |                |
| • Adaobi Udenwa    | speak2adaobi@yahoo.com      |                |
| • Zenovia Wright   | zenovia.wright@gmail.com    | (216) 374-6683 |