

UNC Center for AIDS Research Newsletter

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



The mission of the UNC CFAR is to provide a multidisciplinary environment that promotes basic, clinical, behavioral and translational research in the prevention, detection and treatment of HIV infection.

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THE GRATITUDE EDITION – A *Positive* Look at HIV

Happy holidays and welcome winter! We at the CFAR CODE office have been busy celebrating World AIDS Day and enjoying this delightful winter season in North Carolina. This month, we wanted to share the thoughts and feelings of our Center for AIDS Research faculty, staff, as well as hear the voices of valued members of our triangle community, about gratitude and giving thanks. We hope you enjoy these varied perspectives on the positive aspects and heroes of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in 2012.

Dr. Ronald P. Strauss, Executive Vice Provost and Chief International Officer at UNC, shared, "I am most grateful for the hope that has emerged around responding to HIV/AIDS. Scientific research has created options for care

and prevention and it is now a global challenge to bring that care to all people in all nations. Quite an exciting time!"

Emily Pike, Research Assistant at the Center for AIDS Research at UNC, shared, "I'm grateful for the passionate, dedicated folks and the tireless work they do to combat HIV/AIDS locally and globally. As a colleague of mine says, "Be here for the cure. You'll have front row seats at UNC."

Dr. Carol Golin, Professor at the UNC School of Medicine and School of Public Health, shared that she appreciates the community group CAARE that provides HIV case management, education and prevention through outreach. Golin said, "They are SUCH an amazing organization and their director is awesome! I am definitely grateful for them!"

Dr. Gail E. Henderson, Professor and Chair of the Department of Social Medicine at UNC, stated, "I am grateful for extraordinary, dedicated colleagues who continue to try to make a difference."

Randy Rogers, Health Education Specialist at the Durham County Department of Public Health, stated, "In the midst of the global pandemic of HIV/AIDS, I am most grateful for an evolving sense of an international "community" coming together in unity



Photo Credit: Lisa Chensvold

while celebrating differences to conquer this overwhelming giant known as HIV. The epidemic can be halted with not only behavioral changes - HIV can be reduced with attitude changes, as well. Our attitude about HIV and the people who are disproportionately infected plays a significant role in HIV prevalence and incidence around the world. We are all the face of HIV and together, we can change the state of the epidemic."

"Be here for the cure. You'll have front row seats at UNC."



NEW MEDIA NEWS



Join our facebook community to learn more about HIV-related news and events in the triangle:
<http://www.facebook.com/UNCCCFAR>

Free videos from the UNC campus-wide course on HIV/AIDS for you! Watch them at:
<http://vimeo.com/channels/uncccfar>



We are pinning now!! Join us at
<http://pinterest.com/uncccfar/hiv-aids/>

Come follow us on twitter for easy updates and news at:
<http://twitter.com/#!/uncccfar>



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Dani Strauss, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Center for AIDS Research, is grateful to be a part of the diverse and accepting HIV research community at UNC. She shared, "It's an honor and a privilege to work each day with individuals from all backgrounds, cultures, and professional fields – to see us put aside our differences and come together as members of the global human community to restore the basic rights of health and respect to all individuals."

"We are all the face of HIV and together, we can change the state of the epidemic."

Anita M. Alers, UNC CFAR CAB Member and Manager of Contracts at Wake County Human Services, stated, "I would like to say thank you to Vanessa White

for finding me and offering this wonderful opportunity to be a part of such an awesome board! Additionally, I would like to thank the leaders of the CAB, Dr. Strauss and others, for their wisdom and efforts to make all feel welcome and included. It is with great pleasure that I say "THANK YOU". Not only have I met wonderful people, I have had the opportunity to give hope for a breakthrough to others that are infected with this disease. Wake County's Public Health HIV/STD clinic also says thank you, and they love the materials and handouts that I bring back to share with them."

Karine Dubé, Clinical Research Associate at the U.S. Military HIV Research Program, stated, "I am grateful for a revolutionary time in HIV/AIDS prevention research and for the new prime-boost HIV vaccine trials expected to start in Southern Africa in 2014 - 2015."

Elena Wilson, HIV Project Coordinator for Duke University's Center for Health Policy, says, "I am grateful for activists within the HIV positive community. They contribute to research and help to guide community members through the process of diagnosis, recovery, and living. Peer advocates are willing to share so much of themselves – we are lucky to benefit from their wisdom and hope."



The UNC CFAR CODE Office wants to thank each and every one of YOU for reading our newsletter and staying involved in community outreach efforts related to HIV/AIDS in NC. We are so grateful for your tireless devotion to this worthy cause. HAPPY NEW YEAR – May your 2013 be bright!!