

The **AIDS AND ANTHROPOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP**
AARG

NEWSLETTER

AIDS SESSIONS IN SANTE FE

The Society for Applied Anthropology will be held this year in Sante Fe, New Mexico from April 5th - 8th. There will be a volunteered papers session on AIDS on Wednesday afternoon, April 5th. The Steering Committee of the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group (AARG) will meet on Thursday, April 6th from 5:30 to 6:30 P.M. in a closed session. AARG will hold a National Roundtable on AIDS on April 6th from 6:30-8:30 P.M. All AARG members and their guests are cordially invited. Please make every effort to attend.

Dr. Stephen Koester (University of Colorado Health Sciences Center) will chair a session on AIDS and street ethnography on Friday morning, April 7th. Dr. Michael D. Quam (Sangamon State University) will chair an AAA Task Force on AIDS sponsored session on AIDS and anthropology on Friday afternoon, April 7th. The AAA Task Force on AIDS will hold a closed 1½ day session on April 8th and 9th.

For information on the SFAA annual meeting, please contact Dr. Donald D. Stull Program Chair at (913) 864-3701/4103 or Dr. Susan B. McGreevy, Local Arrangements Chair at (505) 983-8611.

ANTHROPOLOGISTS DISCUSS AIDS AT WORLD BANK

Dr. William L. Leap (American University) and Dr. Priscilla Reining (American Association for the Advancement of Science), both representing the AAA Task Force on AIDS, and Dr. Douglas A. Feldman (University of Miami School of Medicine), representing AARG and the AARG Newsletter, met with the Working Group on AIDS at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. on December 20th. The anthropologists discussed the growing contributions of anthropologists to the study of AIDS on the national and international levels and how we may be able to work collaboratively with the World

Volume 1, Number 3 Jan.-Mar. 1989

REGIONAL AARG MEETINGS

AARG will be holding regional roundtable meetings in the months ahead. The fourth New York City AARG regional meeting will be held at Hunter College, CUNY, North Building, Room 710, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021 in mid-April. Contact Dr. Francis Conant at (212) 772-5420 for the exact date and time. The first Southern California regional AARG meeting will be held in Riverside, CA in late April. Contact Dr. Ralph Bolton at (714) 621-8000 or Dr. E. Michael Gorman at (213) 256-6509 for details. The first South Florida regional AARG meeting will be held at the University of Miami School of Medicine in May. Contact Dr. J. Bryan Page at (305) 667-1940 or Dr. Douglas A. Feldman at (305) 547-5710 for information.

These forums give anthropologists working in AIDS an opportunity to meet with their neighboring colleagues to discuss AIDS-related research and activities. If you are an AARG member, and would like to organize an AARG regional roundtable meeting in your area, please contact either Dr. Douglas A. Feldman at (305) 547-5710 or Dr. Norris G. Lang at (713) 749-3921.

SFAA IN ENGLAND IN 1990

The Society for Applied Anthropology annual meeting will be held in York, England in March, 1990. The theme of the meeting is "Assembling Knowledge to Solve Human Problems." It will provide a forum for sharing the experiences of an international range of applied workers in both industrialized and developing regions. The program committee welcomes sessions, panel discussions, and roundtables on AIDS. Contact Dr. Marilyn L. Poland at (313) 577-1147.

(continued from page 1, column 1)

Bank. Copies of the AARG Newsletter and the AARG membership list were distributed. By the end of the meeting, there was a greater awareness of what anthropologists are doing in AIDS research and activities, and a desire to continue further discussions was expressed.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

In a report recently issued by the W.H.O. Global Programme on AIDS, Dr. Manuel Carballo (Chief, Social and Behavioural Research Unit), who addressed the AAA Plenary Session on AIDS during November, 1987, writes: "There is no reason to believe that HIV infection could not be prevented through education, information and counselling, especially if these initiatives are in turn reinforced by steps to make behaviour change attractive, feasible and 'rewarded.'"

He continues: "Three principal rubrics of research have been defined. They involved the study of: a) high-risk behaviour; b) explanatory systems; and c) coping responses. Each is predicated on the need to provide both short and long-term information that can be used in the formulation and continuing refinement of national control and prevention policies."

Dr. Carballo concludes his report ("Activities in Social and Behavioural Research"): "For international collaborative research to be effective, it requires the cooperation of scientists from different disciplines, backgrounds and countries to participate in the development and implementation of joint research activities. (W.H.O.)...welcomes and looks forward to the collaboration of researchers in a broad spectrum of disciplines and interests. Details of ongoing research and opportunities for participation in them can be had by writing to the: Social and Behavioural Research Unit, Global Programme on AIDS, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland."

There have been a number of changes in the leadership of AARG and the AAA Task Force on AIDS. At the AARG business meeting at the AAA in November, 1988, Dr. Douglas A. Feldman (University of Miami School of Medicine) was re-elected for another one year term as Co-Chair of AARG, while Dr. Norris G. Lang (University of Houston) was elected for a two-year term as Co-Chair. They will also both serve as Co-Editors of the AARG Newsletter through their respective terms. The Steering Committee has been re-elected for one year, with a new election to occur by mail ballot soon. The Co-Chairs have appointed Dr. Moses B. Pounds (University of Maryland-Baltimore) to serve as Treasurer for a two year period.

Dr. Feldman has resigned as Co-Chair of the AAA Task Force on AIDS, but will continue to serve as Task Force member. Dr. Michael D. Quam (Sangamon State University) has resigned as interim Co-Editor of the AARG Newsletter, but became Chair of the Task Force. He appointed Dr. Gilbert Herdt (University of Chicago), Dr. William Leap (American University) and Dr. Melanie Sovine to serve as the Steering Committee of the Task Force. Dr. Roy A. Rappaport (President, AAA) has officially appointed the 23 members of the Task Force to their positions.

AIDS SYMPOSIUM IN CALIFORNIA

Dr. Ralph Bolton (Pomona College) has organized and will chair a symposium on "AIDS and Sexual Behavior" at the Southwestern Anthropological Association in Riverside, California on April 27-29th. Papers will be given by Dr. Ralph Bolton, Dr. Joseph Carrier, Dr. More Downing, Dr. Richard Goldberg, Dr. E. Michael Gorman, Dr. William Leap, Dr. Raoul Magaña, and Dr. Clark Taylor. Dr. Peter Nardi will be the discussant.

NEW AARG PHONE NUMBERS

Editorial offices: Dr. Douglas A. Feldman at (305) 547-5710, Dr. Norris G. Lang at (713) 749-3921. Subscriptions and membership: Dr. Moses B. Pounds at (301) 328-7004.

TIME TO RENEW

Now is the time to renew your membership, if you have not already, to the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group (AARG). Membership includes four quarterly issues of the AARG Newsletter, four quarterly updates of the AARG membership list with your listing, participation in regional and national roundtable meetings, participation at the annual AARG business meeting, and an invitation to our annual cash bar at the AAA.

To renew your AARG membership or to become a new member for 1989, please use the special form which is enclosed with this mailing. You should also use that form to make any changes in your membership listing or to add or modify any key words. Please send the completed form with your check or money order for \$15 payable to AARG to: AARG, c/o Moses B. Pounds, Ph.D., Treasurer, 1303 Northview Road, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA no later than March 31, 1989. Financially burdened members may pay whatever they can afford.

We are also including on the form some questions that will allow the AARG Steering Committee to plan future activities for AARG. Please let us hear from you.

AARG STEERING COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Douglas A. Feldman, Ph.D.
Norris G. Lang, Ph.D.

Treasurer: Moses B. Pounds, Ph.D.

Steering

Committee: Ralph Bolton, Ph.D.
Lucia Cargill Schwaab, M.A., BSN
Barbara O. de Zaluondo, Ph.D.
Paul Farmer
E. Michael Gorman, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Gilbert Herdt, Ph.D.
Susanna Hoffman, Ph.D.

AARG Newsletter Co-Editors:

Douglas A. Feldman, Ph.D.
Norris G. Lang, Ph.D.

NEW COMMISSION CREATED

The Permanent Council of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences has created in Zagreb last July a Commission on the Anthropology of AIDS. This recognizes the serious nature of the global pandemic and the important role that anthropologists should play in the prevention and control of the disease. The activities of the Commission will include the following:

- a) The convening of meetings of experts to report on relevant research;
- b) The sponsorship of relevant research;
- c) The publication of the results of these discussions and the research;
- d) The preparation of educational materials;
- e) The provision of independent opinion to public bodies engaged in efforts to control and prevent AIDS;
- f) The provision of assistance to non-governmental organizations, especially at the grassroots level.

For further information, please contact the Chairman, Dr. D.C. Pitt, La Cure, 1265 Switzerland. The Co-Chairs of AARG have written to Dr. Pitt that their proposed work "is absolutely essential and crucial, and AARG would like to cooperate in any way we possibly can to facilitate the work of the Commission."

AIDS IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY

"Anthropological Perspectives on AIDS in the Black Community," an invited session of the Association of Black Anthropologists, drew a large audience at the AAA meeting in Phoenix last November. It was organized by Dr. Moses B. Pounds (University of Maryland-Baltimore) and Dr. Ruth Wilson (Centers for Disease Control) and chaired by Dr. Wilson. Among the points made were that black women are at greater risk for HIV infection than are white women, even when controlling for risk factors, many black men who engage in same-sex encounters define themselves as strictly heterosexual, and it is essential that AIDS-related health interventions be culture-specific and ethnic-specific. Data were presented from San Francisco, Long Beach (California), rural Tennessee and urban New Jersey.

AIDS AND THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF RISK

Anthropologists discussed "AIDS and the Anthropology of Risk" for four hours at the AAA in Phoenix on November 18th in an invited session of the Society for Medical Anthropology chaired by Dr. Michael D. Quam. Topics were wide-ranging, including safer sex practices and beliefs among gay and lesbian youth, attitudes concerning AIDS among heterosexual women, risk for AIDS among intravenous drug users in New York City and Worcester (Massachusetts), rituals of infection control among health care workers, AIDS in central Africa, AIDS in a Hispanic community in Philadelphia, a cross-cultural analysis of AIDS posters, and an evaluation of methodology in an AIDS risk reduction program. The session displayed the diversity of interests in AIDS research by anthropologists. It became clear that cultural factors play a central role when analyzing AIDS-related knowledge, attitudes and practices.

NEW AARG ADDRESSES

Memberships and subscriptions: Moses B. Pounds, Ph.D., Treasurer; 1303 Northview Road, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA.

Editorial offices: Douglas A. Feldman, Ph.D., University of Miami School of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health (R-669), P.O. Box 016069, Miami, FL 33101, USA or Norris G. Lang, Ph.D., Department of Anthropology, University of Houston, Houston, TX 77004, USA.

ANNUAL AIDS CONFERENCE IN MONTREAL

The Fifth International Conference on AIDS will meet in Montreal, Canada from June 4-9, 1989. Dr. Gilles Bibeau (Université de Montréal) writes, "By choosing the theme 'AIDS: the Scientific and Social Challenge,'" the organizers ...have clearly indicated that they do not consider AIDS exclusively a health problem ..., but also a social problem".... For information, write to: V International Conference on AIDS, 1010 St. Catherine West, Suite 628, Montreal, Quebec H3B 1G7, Canada. The deadline for abstracts was February 1st.

AIDS AND ETHICS

The Committee on Ethics of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) sponsored an invited session on "Ethics and Responsibility in Anthropological Research on AIDS" co-chaired by Dr. Keith T. Kernan (University of California-Los Angeles) and Dr. Susanna M. Hoffman at the annual meeting in Phoenix last November. Dr. Hoffman presented a comprehensive overview of the worldwide AIDS crisis documenting not only the health and mortality statistics, but pointing out the social consequences as well.

Dr. Norris Lang discussed some of the choices made by members of the medical community and other social institutions that deal with persons with AIDS in the USA, showing how these decisions promote economic and political interests while blunting ethical considerations. Dr. Nancy Flowers (Hunter College, CUNY) dealt with factors affecting the spread of AIDS in rural Brazil. Dr. Brooke G. Schoepf (Connaissida) discussed the interplay of methodology, ethics and politics involved in research on AIDS in Zaire. Dr. Francis P. Conant (Hunter College, CUNY) pointed out that research on HIV transmission may involve protecting both informant and group anonymity which may then place others at risk for infection.

An approach to future research based on a consideration of the threats to ethically sound research on AIDS was offered by Paul Farmer (Partners in Health). Dr. Robert A Hahn (Centers for Disease Control) addressed the question of whether anthropologists have a moral duty to participate in the battle against AIDS in terms of the foundations of moral obligations in anthropological theory itself. Dr. Douglas A. Feldman, the discussant, indicated that AIDS-related issues are often very complex and that the ethics of any decision needs to be carefully evaluated.

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU

If you have an announcement or brief communication that you would like to have included in the next issue of AARG Newsletter, please send it to us by March 31, 1989.