

WE THANK OUR  
CORPORATE PARTNERS  
FOR THEIR SUPPORT:

B. BRAUN

\*

BD

\*

MEDIKIT CO., LTD

\*

SMITHS MEDICAL

## ACTIVITIES

June - August 2009

### New "Center of Excellence" in healthcare worker safety at the forefront in Africa

*IHWSC partners in effort to improve  
protection of African health workers*



*Elayne K. Phillips (front) with (clockwise from top):  
Dikembe Mutombo; Ruffin Nsumba (Mutombo Founda-  
tion / Kinshasa), Alexandre Manunga (BMMH admin.  
director), Gary Cohen (BD), Ann Veneman (Exec. Direc-  
tor, UNICEF), Renuka Gadde (BD), Prof. Hippolyte  
Situakibanzu (U. Kinshasa Faculty of Medicine). Biamba  
Marie Mutombo Hospital, Kinshasa; August 2009.*

#### Highlights

- *Center hosts fellows from Russia*
- *First Gulf States conference on healthcare worker safety and occupational exposure prevention*

Janine Jagger, Elayne Kornblatt Phillips and Ginger Parker traveled to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in August for the opening ceremonies of a "center of excellence" in occupational safety for healthcare workers at Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital (BMMH) in Kinshasa.

The BMMH, a 300-bed acute-care hospital located in one of the most impoverished and densely populated areas of Kinshasa, was founded by NBA player Dikembe Mutombo in 2007, and named in memory of his mother. Mutombo has been

widely recognized for his international charitable work, especially in Africa and his home country of DRC.

In addition to Mutombo, who retired this past spring after an 18-year career in the NBA, participants in the ceremonies included DRC Minister of Health Mwami Mopipi Mukulumany, UNICEF executive director Ann Veneman, and BD Executive Vice President Gary Cohen.

The new center of excellence will provide training to Congolese healthcare workers in the

EPINet sharps injury surveillance program developed by Dr. Jagger in 1991. Data from

*(continued on page 2)*

#### Inside:

*Regional activities* 2-3

*OEP training program brings Russian group to Charlottesville* 3

*Center publications and presentations* 4

*On the calendar* 4



### Regional Activities

#### Spotlight on: MIDDLE EAST

Janine Jagger and Ginger Parker lectured and conducted EPINet training at a WHO-sponsored regional training workshop on healthcare worker protection in the Gulf States region. Held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from August 15-18, the conference

was organized by the WHO in collaboration with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Center for Infection Control, led by Dr. Ziad Memish, as well as the International Labor Organization and NIOSH/CDC. Dr. Memish is head of infection control and prevention at King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for

Health Sciences in Riyadh, where the conference was held.

Conference goals included educating GCC healthcare leaders about protection of healthcare workers from occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens, and equipping them with the knowledge to develop effective

*(continued on page 3)*

*New “Center of Excellence” in Kinshasa raises bar for healthcare worker safety in Africa*

*Continued from page 1*

EPINet will be used to establish an evidence-based prevention program for Congolese health workers, who face a high risk of occupational infection with bloodborne pathogens such as HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

During their visit, Jagger and Phillips lectured on strategies for African healthcare worker protection, and Phillips participated in a national symposium on occupational health held in conjunction with the BMMH center’s opening. Parker con-

ducted hands-on EPINet training workshops for BMMH employees. A collaborative research project with BMMH’s occupational health director, Dr. Pascal Mputu Mputu, was also launched.

IHWSC is partnering with the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation (DMF) and BD in supporting the new BMMH occupational safety center. Jagger comments: “We are privileged to work with the DMF and BD in this pioneering effort to create a model environment for healthcare workers in an Afri-



*Janine Jagger with Dr. Pascal Mputu Mputu (in white coat), director of the Occupational Safety Center for Health Workers at Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital in Kinshasa, and staff who participated in EPINet training, August 2009.*

can setting. It is our intent to demonstrate that the high risk common in African healthcare settings can be greatly improved with evidence-based policies and administrative support.”

Jagger continued: “The DMF has shown great vision. This program addresses a critical, but often overlooked and underfunded, component of health systems strengthening—protecting healthcare workers from occupational infections.”

In an NBA.com press release, Mutombo remarked: “The doctors and nurses at the Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital are saving lives every day and helping improve health care in the DRC, which has been ravaged by more than a decade of war and disease.” He called the new occupational safety center an “important milestone” in training health care workers to protect both themselves and patients from the spread of disease. □



*Ginger Parker conducts EPINet training with staff of BMMH in Kinshasa, August 2009.*

*“This is an extraordinary opportunity to help build a surveillance network from the ground up, in a region with limited previous activity related to healthcare worker safety.”*

**PAGE 2**



**Regional activity (cont.)**

tive policies and programs at institutional and national levels. In addition, through hands-on EPINet training, the program sought to establish a foundation for a GCC-wide sharps injury surveillance network.

Jagger commented that “the more people share experiences, the more powerful the data become. And data will begin to

proliferate as the trainees here train others across the region.”

Other presenters at the conference included Ahmed E. Gomaa, MD,ScD, MSPH, medical officer with NIOSH’s Division of Surveillance Hazard Evaluation and Health Studies, and Susan



*Janine Jagger (middle row, left) with Gulf State colleagues attending a WHO-sponsored training workshop, “Protecting Healthcare Workers” (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; August 2009).*

## Center hosts Russian fellows for June OEP training program

During June, the Center hosted a distinguished group of health-care professionals from Russia for a one-week Fellows Training Program in Occupational Exposure Prevention (*see photo, right*). The fellows brought a wealth of experience from a range of fields: Yury Stoyka, M.D., is deputy director of surgery at the Pirogov National Medical-Surgical Center in Moscow (considered one of Russia's leading health institutions), and Marina Borisova, M.D., is chief physician in the Children's Diagnostic Unit at the same institution. Larisa Dementieva, M.D., is deputy director of the Russian Health Service's HIV/AIDS Surveillance Unit, and Alexey Bobrik, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., directs the Open Health Institute in Moscow, one of the country's most prominent non-profit public health organizations. Among other program areas, OHI has coordinated distribution of \$88.7 million in aid from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, targeted at HIV/AIDS preven-



*IHWSC Fellows in Occupational Exposure Prevention (l-r): Eugenia Guys (BD Europe); Yury Stoyka, M.D. (Pirogov National Medical Surgical Center, Moscow); Marina Borisova, M.D. (Children's Diagnostic Center, PNMSC); Elena Zaitseva (Open Health Institute, Moscow); Prof. Olga Mironenko (St. Petersburg Medical Academy for Continuing Education); Larisa A. Dementieva, M.D. (HIV/Hepatitis Surveillance Unit, RF Federal Health Service, Moscow); Alexey Bobrik, M.D. (Open Health Institute, Moscow) — with statue of Thomas Jefferson. Charlottesville, Virginia; June 2009.*

tion efforts in Russia. Recently, the OHI has focused on improving the safety of health-care workers, particularly those who provide HIV/AIDS care, and reducing their risk of occupational infection. Dr. Bobrik commented that the training he received at IHWSC will help him strengthen OHI's occupational safety program and promote improved safety standards in Russia.

In addition to lectures by Cen-

ter staff on occupational exposure prevention, the fellows learned about U. Va. hospital's infection control program from Eve Giannetta, RN, ICP, and about the structure of its purchasing system from Supply Chain Management administrator Jim Keathley and logistics director Barbara Strain. The fellows also visited the hospital's neonatal intensive care and surgical units, among other areas. □



### Regional activity (cont.)

Wilburn, RN, MPH, technical officer with the WHO's Occupational Health Programme.

Jagger noted that the conference presented "an extraordinary opportunity to help build a sharps injury surveillance network from the ground up, in a region—the Gulf States—where previously there had been very

limited activity on health-care worker safety. We are particularly grateful to Dr. Memish for being a driving force behind this work."

**Africa:** see lead article.

**Europe:** In June, European health-care employee and employer trade organizations reached agreement on the use of safety devices; the EU is expected to pass safety needle legislation by the end of 2009.

**Latin America:** Janine Jagger traveled to Mexico City in July at the invitation of colleague Javier Barroso Aguirre, M.D., to speak at a national conference on infectious biological hazardous waste sponsored by Mexico's Federal Commission for Health Risks Protection, a government body similar to the U.S. FDA. Jagger spoke about "Risks to health-care workers during disposal of needles and sharps." □

### OUR MISSION:

#### Setting a global standard for health-care worker protection

Health-care workers are a crucial resource in all countries. But in many places, they are at high risk of acquiring preventable, life-threatening occupational infections.

We believe health-care workers everywhere should be provided with the basic protections that have been shown to prevent exposures and infections. We believe that these measures should be mandatory, and should be provided free of charge to workers:

- Hepatitis B vaccination for all health-care workers.
- Elimination of unnecessary sharps.
- Availability of safety-engineered needles and sharp medical devices.
- Availability of basic barrier garments for blood intensive procedures.
- Post-exposure prophylaxis for all health-care workers who sustain an occupational exposure to HIV.

## ACTIVITIES JUNE - AUGUST 2009

University of Virginia Health System  
PO Box 800764  
Charlottesville VA 22908-0764

Phone: 434-924-5159  
Fax: 434-982-0821  
E-mail: [janeperry@virginia.edu](mailto:janeperry@virginia.edu)

On the web at:  
[www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/safetycenter](http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/safetycenter)

## ON THE CALENDAR:

- September: Ginger Parker will be in Venezuela Sept. 21-25 for a conference on workers' health sponsored by the Pan-American Health Organization in conjunction with NIOSH and the WHO. Ginger will conduct training in the EPINet surveillance system.
- October: Janine Jagger will speak at the First International Congress on Occupational Risk in the Health Care Sector, Madrid, Spain, Oct. 28-30, 2009. The session she will speak at will focus on performance of safety-engineered devices and implications for EU policy.
- In December the Center will host a group of healthcare leaders from China for its Global Fellows Program in Occupational Exposure Prevention.

## PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

### Recent publications

Note: Copies of articles and presentations are available upon request.

- *Committee on Personal Protective Equipment for Healthcare Workers During An Influenza Pandemic* [Janine Jagger, member]; Institute of Medicine. *Preparing for an Influenza Pandemic: Personal Protective Equipment for Healthcare Workers*. Goldfrank LR, Liverman CT, editors. Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2008. (Sponsored by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.)

- Jagger J, Berger R, Goma AE. *Study methods effect findings of safety trial of blunt suture needles*. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. Published on-line June 17, 2009.

- Perry J, Goma AE, Jagger J. *Progress in preventing sharps injuries in the United States*. Chapter in: Charney W, ed. *Handbook of*

*Modern Hospital Safety (2nd ed)*. CRC Press, Inc.; 2009.

Traces progress in preventing sharps injuries in the U.S. and addresses some of the important issues and challenges associated with full implementation of the revised bloodborne pathogens standard.

### Submitted

- Jagger J, Berger R, Phillips EK, Parker G, Goma AE. *Percutaneous injuries among surgical personnel in 87 hospitals, 1993-2006: Impact of national legislation*.

### Presentations

- Janine Jagger:
  - "Risks to healthcare workers during disposal of needles and sharps." Mexico City: National Conference on Biological Hazardous Waste, sponsored by Federal Commission for Health Risks Protection; July 23, 2009.
  - Three lectures in Riyadh,

Saudi Arabia: "Epidemiology of Bloodborne Infections," "Introduction to EPINet Surveillance Program," and "Efficacy of Control Measures Used to Prevent Needlestick Injuries." World Health Organization: Preventing Needlestick Injuries and Occupational Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure; EPINet Surveillance Program. Regional Planning Workshop and Training of Trainers. King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, August 15-18, 2009.

- Lecture at opening ceremonies for the Occupational Safety Center for Healthcare Workers, Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo; August 21-27, 2009.

- Ginger Parker: Conducted EPINet training workshops in

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, August 13-22, 2009.

- Elayne Phillips: "Toward a global standard for healthcare worker protection." Occupational Health Symposium; Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo; August 27, 2009.

### Other:

- The August issue of *Health Purchasing News* discussed trends in sharps safety products, with extensive comments by IHWSC Associate Director Jane Perry. The article is available at: <http://www.hpnonline.com/inside/2009-08/0908-IC.html>. □

### Global Initiative website

The EPINet Sharps Injury and Blood Exposure Surveillance system is available in 16 different languages (as well as several different English versions). They can be accessed at the Center's EPINet Global Resources page: <http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/safetycenter/internetsafetycenterwebpages/EPINetResources/EPINetpage.cfm>.