



Annual Report

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IMPAACT
2006 Annual Report
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Executive Summary from the IMPAACT Chair

The year 2006 represents the inaugural year of the *International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials* group – IMPAACT. It has been a period of transition with many new beginnings and collaborations, as individuals from the former Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Group (PACTG) and the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) joined with others from the United States (U.S.) and internationally to make IMPAACT a visible, working reality. At the same time there was a need to continue the ongoing research projects begun in the “pre-IMPAACT era” and initiate new research. The major processes undertaken and their outcomes in 2006 have laid the initial foundation for IMPAACT. Our organizational and scientific progress is highlighted below and provided in greater detail in this report.

IMPAACT achieved a number of organizational milestones that include: established an organizational structure and policies that are functioning well scientifically and administratively to further the scientific agenda into clinical trials; developed over 120 network SOPs, issued over 45 Master sub-contracts and initiated the development of 130 task orders; and finalized the formation of resource and standing committee structures. All effort was made to foster accountability, transparency, inclusiveness, fairness, and productivity.

The network has also strived to foster and sustain collaborative relationships with multiple HIV/AIDS research and funding organizations. Although the Division of AIDS (DAIDS) of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) is the major source of support for IMPAACT, the network also receives significant support from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) in terms of leadership group funding, scientific expertise, and additional clinical trial sites. We have also reached out to other groups including the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the Adolescent Trials Network (ATN), the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG), the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN), the Pediatric European Network for Treatment of AIDS (PENTA), the European Collaborative Study (ECS) and the French National Agency on AIDS (ANRS). While collaborations have occurred in many areas, a prominent focus has been in the development of a prioritized research agenda and associated trials as well as the development of clinical research infrastructure at international sites (GCP and GLP training, development of community participation, laboratory capabilities, pharmacy operations and data management capabilities).

A priority during our first year has been the emphasis given to expecting and assessing accountability at all levels of the network; and to planning the mechanisms that will ensure that each structural component of the network operates efficiently and effectively to maximally support the development and implementation of the Group’s scientific agenda. To ensure accountability, appropriate monitoring and transparent objective evaluation of both individual and organizational performance are being strategically developed and set in place. This is primarily the responsibility of the Performance Evaluation Resource Committee with additional support from the Protocol Development and Monitoring Committee, and the QA/QC Resource Committee.

While good communication is always important, it is especially needed during times of transition and beginnings. We have strived to open and maintain channels of

communications among all stakeholders. There have been regular and active communications with DAIDS, NICHD, other Institute collaborators, and the full assembly of IMPAACT site Principal Investigators.

The scope of pediatric, adolescent, and maternal health HIV/AIDS research has extended beyond the U.S. to now include international investigators and clinical research sites. IMPAACT looks forward to working with 32 international clinical research sites (CRSs) and 33 domestic CRSs in order to carry-out the Group's research priorities.

The involvement of the community of HIV-affected individuals and families will be a critical component for the ongoing success of IMPAACT. The contributions of the community, both locally and globally, will be critical for our network to significantly advance the scientific agenda and care of mothers, children, and adolescents. A new community organization now includes three levels of participation – community/site, regional, and Network (IMPAACT). In turn, the Network CAB (ICAB) places representatives on Scientific Committees, Scientific Oversight Committee, Network Executive Committee, Performance Evaluation Committee, and protocol teams. Furthermore, IMPAACT has funded a community coordinator at the Operations Center and a regional community coordinator in Africa to assist sites with community issues. As with all aspects of IMPAACT, there will be regular evaluation of community participation at sites and within the network by the IMPAACT Performance Evaluation Committee in conjunction with ICAB leadership.

Scientific accomplishments in the past year included both the organization of our intellectual-scientific assets and a number of significant empirical findings. To ensure that IMPAACT involves and utilizes the best scientific expertise, the Group has filled the majority of the Scientific Committee membership positions including both U.S. and international senior and junior investigators. Thirty-five capsules were submitted by the Scientific Committees for potential review and prioritization. IMPAACT has published 15 original research articles, and 15 manuscripts have been submitted for review since June 2006. Highlights include reports on the long term complications of HIV infection, pharmacokinetics of new antiretroviral drugs and their interactions in children and pregnant women, the drug resistance profiles generated by specific antiretroviral regimens, and the dynamics of drug resistance fading in mothers and children exposed to single dose nevirapine.

From June 29, 2006 through March 31, 2007, the IMPAACT network enrolled 1,370 women, children, and adolescents (489 into nine trials at international sites and 901 into 26 trials in the U.S). The network has followed 1,343 participants on study at international sites and 5,647 participants at U.S. sites. Seven new protocols were opened to accrual (P1032, P1047, P1056, P1060, HPTN 027, HPTN 046, and HPTN 057), requiring a total enrollment of 2,652 participants. Of special note was the high rate of accrual to P1047 (HPV vaccine). This study was conducted in the U.S. and completed its full accrual of 129 children in only six weeks. The network currently has 29 open protocols with 6 protocols and 2 concept sheets in development. We look forward to opening three new protocols by the third quarter of 2007 (P1063 - Atorvastatin, P1065 - meningococcal vaccine, and P1066 - Merck integrase inhibitor), requiring a total of 476 participants. Two new protocols, P1067 (Merck AD-5 vaccine) and P1049 (DermaVir), are expected to open in fall 2007, requiring a total of 194 participants.

The top priorities moving forward are the evaluation of new drugs and vaccines for the prevention and treatment of HIV and its complications, and evaluating new interventions to allow infants to safely breastfeed or formula feed without becoming HIV-infected. Due to the vast increase of HIV among pregnant women and children in developing countries, IMPAACT resource allocation will predictably shift toward supporting its international agenda. At the same time, a number of critically important Phase I/II studies of promising drugs and vaccines, laboratory studies, and treatment strategy trials will comprise a robust domestic agenda and continue to be conducted in the United States.

To close, as a result of the efforts of many individuals and groups during the past year, IMPAACT is now a living, breathing, operational network with a scientifically exciting and relevant agenda. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead to generate the knowledge needed for enhancing the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS in women, children and adolescents globally.

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Chair, IMPAACT

