

ASPH/CDC Allan Rosenfield Global Health Fellows Publish Research

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ASPH/CDC Allan Rosenfield Global Health Fellows often have the opportunity to publish and/or present on research they conduct as part of their fellowships. Fellows have presented at national and international conferences as well as before government ministries and published in peer reviewed journals, as well as CDC publications. Below are just a few examples of the work that Rosenfield Fellows contributed to.

Elysia Larson, an Epidemiology Fellow in South Africa, has recently published and presented on the work she has done in regard to studying PEPFAR funding and anti-retroviral use and their impact in South Africa. She presented a poster at the 6th International AIDS Society Conference on “The Impact of Antiretroviral Treatment Scale-Up on Mortality in South Africa, 2006-2008,” which showed a significant association between scale-up of antiretroviral treatment (ART) and reduction in overall mortality in South Africa. She gave an oral presentation at the 5th South Africa AIDS Conference entitled “Scale-Up of President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief-Supported Pediatric ART in South Africa, 2005-2010.” This study showed that scale up of PEPFAR-supported pediatric ART in South Africa was significant, but that additional scale-up would be needed to meet the targets established by the South African government. In addition, Ms. Larson presented another poster at the 5th South Africa AIDS Conference, co-authored a presentation that will be given by one of her colleagues at the 42nd Union World Conference on Lung Health, and published a letter in the American Journal of Public Health which examined district-level measures of PEPFAR-supported services in South Africa.

Deborah Caselton, a Strategic Information Fellow in Kenya, will present a poster at the European Scientific Working Group on Influenza (ESWI) in September. Her poster, “Does the length of refrigerated specimen storage affect influenza testing results by RT-PCR? An analysis of surveillance specimens in Kenya, 2008-2011,” examines whether length of sample storage time affects influenza positivity in the samples. Her findings indicate that samples can be stored for up to 5 days at 2-8 °C, which is longer than the 48 hours the WHO recommends for viral isolation. The findings are especially useful in Kenya because sentinel surveillance sites are often far from central laboratories, and it is difficult to transport them within the previous 48 hour time frame.

In Namibia, two current Fellows contributed field reports to the June 2011 issue of *Pamwe*, (see attached) a newsletter published by CDC-Namibia. Krysta Gerndt, a Program Management Fellow, wrote about her experience as part of a team conducting a retrospective measles outbreak cohort study. She recounted the challenges involved in locating and interviewing rural cases in the Kunene region of Namibia, the perseverance of her team in tracking the cases in nomadic areas, and the need to employ culturally appropriate strategies in order to successfully complete the interviews. Catherine Nichols, an HIV/AIDS Prevention Fellow based

in Atlanta, was in Namibia for four weeks to collect feedback from patients at facilities where doctors and nurses had been trained to deliver HIV prevention messages, assess sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and provide basic contraceptives and safer pregnancy counseling as part of their routine package of care. Catherine spoke of the innovative solutions employed by staff at the facilities, and the success of the data collection for the evaluation. In addition, two former Fellows, John Pitman and Nick DeLuca, contributed to this publication.

These are but a few examples of the breadth of work that Rosenfield Fellows participate in. The publications and presentations they contribute to not only advance the evidence base for public health, but also advance the expertise of the Fellows as they build their careers.