

May 1, 2005

**Newsletter of the ABA-SIL International Health Law Committee – May 2005
ABA Section of International Law**

The following news items may be of interest to members of the ABA Section of International Law – International Health Law Committee. Submissions are welcome and can be sent to the address provided at the end of this message under “Reminder.”

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1. HIV/AIDS

UNAIDS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA JOIN FORCES TO COMBAT HIV IN UNIFORMED SERVICES

On April 28, 2005, India’s Minister of Defence and the Director of the UNAIDS Office on AIDS, Security and Humanitarian Response, announced the signing of a partnership agreement pursuant to which both parties agree to cooperate to decrease the devastating consequence of AIDS and encourage prevention efforts in the military. The program focuses on awareness-raising activities, peer education, the inclusion of HIV/AIDS-related topics into the curricula of military schools throughout India, the delivery of high-quality care by military health professionals, and the decrease of stigma and discrimination surrounding military personnel living with HIV. For more information, please click on

http://www.unaids.org/NetTools/Misc/DocInfo.aspx?LANG=en&href=http://gva-doc-owl/WEBcontent/Documents/pub/Media/Press-Releases03/PR_India-Uniformed_28Apr05_en.pdf

"FRIENDS OF THE GLOBAL FUND EUROPE" LAUNCHED

Friends of the Global Fund Europe was launched in Paris on April 19, 2005. Together with Friends of the Global Fund in the United States and Friends of the Global Fund Japan, it aims to encourage increased public funding for the Global Fund and to include the private sector in the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria. For more information, please click on

http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/media_center/press/pr_050419.asp

GLOBAL FUND CHIEF SAYS INDIA HAS WORST HIV RATE

Although the latest UNAIDS statistics (from July 2004) rank South Africa as the country with the highest rate of HIV infection (5.3 million infected adults), followed by India (5.1 million infected adults), the range around the South African estimate (4.5 to 6.2 million) is much narrower than the range around the Indian estimate (2.5 to 8.5 million), owing mainly to the decreased reliability of data collection in India. Experts are of the view that widespread ignorance about HIV and high prices of antiretrovirals (despite the presence of several generic drug manufacturers, recent legislation threatens the continued availability of Indian generic antiretrovirals), drive the Indian epidemic. To access the complete story, please click on

<http://www.aegis.org/news/bbc/2005/BB050413.html>

2. STEM CELL RESEARCH

EU WON'T UP STEM CELL FUNDING

Funding guidelines in Framework Programme 7, or FP7, have doubled the European Commission's research funding for the coming years. Despite this additional research funding, European Union funding for human embryonic stem cell research will not be increased from present levels. Under FP6, the previous guidelines) the European Commission is currently funding 25 stem cell-related projects, including two involving human embryonic stem cell research. To access the full story, please click on

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/news/20050419/01>

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/news/20050408/02>

GUIDELINES RECOMMENDED FOR RESEARCH INVOLVING EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS

To ensure that human embryonic stem cell research is conducted responsibly and ethically, the National Academies have developed guidelines designed to encourage such conduct and urge institutions involved in stem cell research to establish oversight committees charged with supervising the implementation of these guidelines. To access the press release, please click on

<http://www4.nationalacademies.org/news.nsf/isbn/0309096537?OpenDocument>

To access the executive summary of the report (in pdf format), please click on

http://www.nap.edu/execsumm_pdf/11278.pdf

3. EPIDEMICS AND VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS

POLIO OUTBREAK SPREADS ACROSS YEMEN

As of April 29, 2005, twenty-two cases of polio were reported in Yemen, which had been virtually polio-free for almost a decade. In an attempt to control the epidemic, experts are planning a nationwide immunization campaign using a new vaccine designed to specifically target this type of poliovirus. To access the full story, please click on

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2005/pr19/en/index.html>

WHO UPDATE ON THE MARBURG VIRUS IN ANGOLA -- UPDATE #16

As of April 27, 2005, the Ministry of Health in Angola has reported 275 cases of Marburg haemorrhagic fever. Of these cases, 255 were fatal. In Uige Province, which remains the epicentre of the outbreak, 266 cases, of which 246 have been fatal, were reported as of 28 April. To access the full story, please click on

http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005_04_29/en/index.html

Regular updates can be found on the WHO website (www.who.int).

VACCINATION WEEK IN THE AMERICAS LAUNCHED

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and officials from the U.S., Canadian and Mexican governments launched Vaccination Week in the Americas (April 23-30, 2005) a project whose goal is to improve vaccination programs and immunize over 44 million children and adults throughout the Americas. To read more about this endeavour, please click on

<http://www.paho.org/English/DD/PIN/pr050425.htm>

<http://www.paho.org/English/DD/PIN/pr050419.htm>

4. OTHER HEALTH-RELATED NEWS ITEMS

THE WORLD HEALTH REPORT 2005 – MAKE EVERY MOTHER AND CHILD COUNT

A report issued by the WHO on World Health Day (April 7, 2005) finds that hundreds of millions of women and children lack access to potentially life-saving treatment. The report states that the resulting death toll could be reduced through wider use of essential

interventions and a "continuum of care" approach for both mothers and children spanning the period before pregnancy, through childbirth and extending into childhood. To access the full story, please click on

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2005/pr16/en/index.html>

To access the report, please click on

<http://www.who.int/whr/2005/en/index.html>

5. UPCOMING EVENTS

FIFTY-EIGHTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

The World Health Assembly is the ultimate decision-making organ of the WHO. It meets once a year and is attended by representatives of all of the WHO's 192 member states to develop the policies of the WHO and perform certain administrative functions. This year, the Assembly will meet on May 16-25 in Geneva Switzerland to discuss the revision of the International Health Regulations and consider a draft global immunization proposal. To access related information, please click on

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/2005/wha58/en/index.html>

SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Kobe, Japan will host the 7th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) from July 1 to 5, 2005. Under the theme "Bridging Science and Community," the goals of the 7th ICAAP are to increase the understanding of the AIDS epidemic and related issues in the region, share past lessons learned, and gain insight into future efforts. To access the Kobe Congress website, please click on

<http://www.icaap7.jp/>

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