Capacity Building Activity Overview

Sharon M. Anderson, PhD, Program Manager
CONRAD Overview

CONRAD is a non-profit biomedical R&D organization

**Mission Statement:** To improve global health by enabling prevention of HIV/STI, unintended pregnancies, and maternal and neonatal disease through the development of innovative, user-centered technologies
CONRAD Development Pipeline

R&D Focus Areas

- HIV Prevention
- Multipurpose Prevention Technologies
- Contraception
- Maternal & Neonatal Health
- STI Prevention
Novel Drug Delivery Systems & Products

- **Vaginal/rectal gels**
- **Vaginal films**
- **Fast-dissolve vaginal/rectal inserts**
- **Intravaginal Rings**
- **Longer-acting vaginal inserts**
- **Cervical Pessaries**
- **Transdermal Patch**
- **Oral tablets**
- **Implants and injectables**
- **Intrauterine systems (IUS)**

**Short-acting**
- On demand
- Monthly

**Long-acting**
- Topical
- Systemic
- Monthly

**Systemic**
- Daily/weekly
- Monthly

**Long-acting**
- On demand
- Topical
- Systemic
- Monthly
- Months/years
**NIX HIV Program Overview**

*Next generation products for prevention of HIV infection in women*

**Activities**

- Develop novel long-acting, systemic **antiretroviral pellet implant**
- **Technology innovation incubator** for new drug delivery concepts and ARVs
- **Fill critical gaps** (adherence measures) and **build research capacity** in the field

**Outcomes**

- Next-gen biodegradable pellet implant ready for further clinical testing
- Redesigned inserter suitable for low-resource settings
- Expanded pipeline for long-acting HIV prevention
- Strengthened research capacity through:
  - Point-of-care adherence assessment;
  - Sustainable engagement of local research networks in Zimbabwe and SA

*AID-OAA-A-17-00014*
Innovation in HIV Prevention Research

**Objective:** Two-day scientific training workshop to provide research tools, networking, and funding resources for young investigators in the HIV prevention field
Innovation in HIV Prevention Research
Summary of Day One

- Current and next generation approaches for epidemic control
  - Current status of epidemic in Zimbabwe and PEPFAR contributions
  - Overview of PrEP studies
  - Existing and next-generation LA HIV prevention approaches
  - End-user preferences in HIV prevention products

- Contraception, Biology and Behavior
  - Contraception
  - Microbiome
  - Biomarkers of Adherence
  - Modeling of HIV outcomes

- Interactive sessions
  - Clinical (Phase I sampling)
  - Laboratory (PD endpoints)
  - Sociobehavioral (User perspectives)
Innovation in HIV Prevention Research
Looking Ahead to Day Two

- Building Research Capacity

- Focus on Young Investigators: Oral and abstract presentations

- Towards HIV eradication
  - Target populations and ethical research issues
  - Risk perception
  - Looking ahead

- Interactive sessions
  - Grant writing and research methodology

- Laboratory
  - Immunology, Virology and vaccinology
  - HPV, HIV and the microbiome
Follow-up Training Opportunities

Interested in future research training opportunities?

Look for announcements soon regarding:

- US-based training opportunity for 2 selected junior researchers
- Seed funding to enable an innovative pilot research project
Thank you for participating!

Please join us for a group photo at the end of this session!