Greetings, Fogarty Scholars!

This issue, we feature Cote d’Ivoire. We were pleased to host eight scholars from Abidjan over the summer. As you will see from their profiles, they came from a rich variety of backgrounds and specialities. Brief biographies and a group photograph from the farewell party held in August follow on page 2.

We welcome email messages from you detailing your recent activities.

Till next time, as always ...

My best to all of you,
Roberta Myers, Editor

--- Feature Article ---

Eight Scholars from Abidjan attend 2009 Summer Sessions

Cote d’Ivoire Coat of Arms

Recent Graduates:
Georgette Adjoto-Johnson, MD, MPH, PhD (2005)
Joseph Ezoua, MD, MPH (2005)
Alexandre Ekra, MD, MPH (2007)

Abidjan
SUMMER SESSIONS 2009
STUDENT PROFILES

Art Reingold's Fogarty AITRP Grant was provided funding by PEPFAR in Ivory Coast to allow eight health professionals from there to come to Berkeley for Summer Sessions 2009. The visiting scholars enrolled in introductory coursework in biostatistics and epidemiology and attended special workshops in monitoring and evaluation presented by staff from the UCSF Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS) and the California Department of Public Health's STD/HIV Prevention Training Center.

The Ivorians, all from Abidjan, knew each other from previous conferences and workshops in various locations, but they came from very different backgrounds and positions:

Akossia Marie-France Anaky, a physician, is a medical coordinator at ACONDA-VS.

Dehisson Guy Michel Badia is a Ministry of Public Health pharmacist.

Brou Charles Joseph Diby is technical advisor for strategic information at the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Zadi Paul Kikie is a human resources management engineer with CDC/PEPFAR. (cont'd p 3)
Mah Konate Koudedia is a sociologist who administers the Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) Program the Public Health Unit pharmacy.

Brou Jean Claude Bouabre Koffi served as chief medical officer of the Abobo City Police infirmary previously and is now Doctor in Charge at the Central Police Laboratory and a member of the Ministry of the Interior's Committee to Fight against HIV/AIDS.

Yao Faustin Koffi is the Director of Mutuality and Social Work in the Ministry of National Education.

Evelyne Flora Blai N'GBesso conducts assessments of technical and organizational capacity for the FHI Cote d'Ivoire. She has a Masters in Communication, Administration and Management from the National University of Abidjan.

Also attending Summer Sessions this year were three Fogarty Scholars from other countries: Emmanuel Arinaitwe, Uganda; Maziel Giron Vilela, Peru; and Daniel Kwaro, Kenya (please see following article on p 7).

After returning to Abidjan, Mah Koudedia wrote, "The Fogarty program let us share some experiences with people coming from other countries in a multicultural environment. In addition, learning in English topics such as biostatistics and epidemiology improved our language skills and helped us to better understand the public health field. The training contributed to building national capacity and developing our communities. Now I'm able to determine what type of study design is better to address a health problem and justify it. We have not many persons with Public Health masters degrees in Côte d'Ivoire, and I hope that the Fogarty program will help us to increase that number."
ALUMNA PROFILE: Mireille Kalou-Badirou

Since 2004, I've worked for the CDC's international operations in Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, and Cameroon. I was in charge of diagnostic activity in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, and supported a very successful program as part of CDC's HIV/AIDS projects.

In 2007 I joined APHL (Association of Public Health Laboratories) as an independent consultant and constituted a technical working group in Cote d'Ivoire to prepare and revise the training materials developed for a laboratory management workshop funded by PEPFAR through APHL. I provided technical assistance to in-country partners in implementing an HIV Proficiency Testing and External Quality Assurance pilot program with the support of APHL and consultants working for Ivory Coast. I also provided critical technical assistance to bring together experts and strengthen laboratory capacity for the Ivory Coast National Reference Laboratory by writing and translating into French a standard operating procedure we developed. I contributed in the development of National Laboratory policy guidelines on quality Assurance for the Ivory Coast National HIV AIDS Program.

I established the new laboratory in Kisumu, Kenya, which currently supports CDC's multiple projects in Kenya. Later on, I provided technical assistance in support of the design, implementation and analysis of the 2007 Kenya AIDS Indicator Survey (KAINS).

Subsequently, I took the responsibility of Director of HIV Laboratory in CDC-Mutengene, Cameroon, where I initiated and executed several projects in collaboration with field staff and epidemiologists, including the evaluation of serological assays for diagnosing HIV infection in Cameroon.

In October 2007, I was hired as a microbiologist in charge of the serology unit at the International Laboratory Branch of the Global AIDS Program - CDC where I work closely with all teams within International Laboratory Branch and GAP and external partners to develop a comprehensive approach to strengthen laboratory capacity to support HIV care initiatives.

(continued p 5)
My responsibilities include the following:

* Evaluate and validate HIV rapid test kits, including oral fluid based tests
* Participate in the creation of training materials and guidelines for HIV-1 serology, including rapid testing and DBS testing
* Participate in the optimization and evaluation of new incidence assays
* Participate in the creation of training materials and guidelines for incidence testing and proficiency testing
* Organize training of counselors and nurses and continue to work hard to improve the quality of HIV testing at various levels.
* Organize training activities in targeted countries and provide technical assistance as needed (international travel is required)
* Provide technical assistance for the selection and procurement of appropriate equipment, reagents and supplies
* Write and implement protocols for special studies that help promote PEPFAR goals
* Develop country operation plans and implementation strategies
* Lead the projects and other team members in implementing successful strategies in GAP countries

- by Mireille Kalou-Badirou
Summer Sessions 2009

In addition to eight summer trainees from Cote d'Ivoire (see Feature Article, p 2), the Berkeley Division of Epidemiology welcomed two masters students, Emmanuel Arinaitwe, Uganda, and Daniel Kwaro, Kenya, plus a short-term Scholar from Peru, Maziel Giron Vilela. Dr. Arinaitwe was the study coordinator of the Makerere University/UCSF Malaria Research Collaboration Togo Child Cohort before coming to Berkeley. Dr. Kwaro has held several posts in the Family AIDS Care and Education Services (FACES) program as well as sitting on a Ministry of Health STI/AIDS Control Program subcommittee in Kenya. Ms. Giron is on a research team at Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia; she has recently returned to Peru, but Emmanuel and Daniel will stay until May, by which time they will have earned their MPH degrees.

Message from Peru:
Hello my dear and beloved Berkeley Folks...

It is my great pleasure that I announce that one week ago (Sat 21st November) at 5.36 pm, my son ROBERTO MATEO SEGURA-LINO was born in OK conditions and very healthy. My wife Monica and I are very happy for his arrival and consider him to be a blessing from God. We hope to live a long life devoted to our son. I think he wants to become a Doctor.....OMG!!!! NOO!!!!

- Eddy Segura Pauca (MPH '09)
Where are our Ivorian alumni now?

Georrette Adjiriolo-Johnson (PhD '05) has been working for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation in Los Angeles, California, since 2006. Currently, she serves as a senior medical officer, helping with the evaluation of HIV care and treatment programs in several countries in Africa including Ivory Coast. Her current position allows her to help improve HIV prevention and treatment programs through research and technical assistance.

Edith Boni-Ouattara (MPH '02) is also with the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Ehounou D Pascal Eby (MPH '04) is Head of Monitoring, UNAIDS Evaluation Programme.

Rene Ekpini (MPH '99) formerly a medical officer with WHO, Department of HIV/AIDS, in the Treatment and Prevention Scale-Up, HTM Cluster, is now at UNICEF in New York City.

Alexandre Ekra (MPH '05) is with PEPFAR.

CDC employees:

- Lacina Diaby (MPH '03)
- Mamadou Diallo (MPH '97)
- Gaston Djomand (MPH '96)
- Sidibe Kassim (MPH '95)

Hello from the Division of Epidemiology: Our Summer Sessions Scholars with Diane Hinkly, Eugene Konagaya, Roberta Myers, Alice Gandelman of the California Department of Public