

RENEW OR JOIN NOW FOR 1990

Volume 2, Number 2 January 1990

The time to renew for 1990, or to become a new member, is now. AARG is part of the Society for Medical Anthropology and the American Anthropological Association. We bring together anthropologists interested in AIDS through our quarterly Newsletter, our quarterly updated membership list with topical and geographical key words, special publications, semi-annual national roundtables on AIDS, quarterly regional meetings, publication of conference abstracts by anthropologists on AIDS, a free consulting service for members, semi-annual cash bar receptions, and special projects.

To renew or start your membership for 1990 in AARG, send a check or money order payable to AARG for \$15 (U.S.) to: AARG c/o Moses B. Pounds, Ph.D., Treasurer, 1303 Northview Road, Baltimore, MD 21218 USA. Please use and complete the 1990 AARG Renewal and New Membership Form which is being sent with this issue. If you are a new member, it is important that you write clearly and list your topical and geographical key words (which will accompany your listing) carefully. If you are renewing your membership, this is an excellent time to revise your listing. If you do not wish to make changes in your listing, just print your name and write "No Changes" across the form.

Membership is free to all anthropologists residing outside North America and Europe, to all anthropology graduate students conducting AIDS research, and to all unemployed anthropologists interested in AIDS research and activities. The deadline for all renewals and new memberships is March 9, 1990. Regrettably, if we do not receive your form by then, we will automatically delete your name from our membership list for March, 1990 and you will be dropped as an active AARG member. This is, of necessity, your first and last reminder. So please don't delay. Mail it in today!

MAIL IT IN TODAY!

NEW AARG OFFICERS ELECTED

The AARG election results are in, the ballots have been counted, and starting as of January 1, 1990 AARG has a new Co-Chair and two new Steering Committee (SC) members. Dr. Norris G. Lang, the previous junior AARG Co-Chair, has become the senior Co-Chair through 1990 and has been elected to the SC for 1991-92. Dr. Ralph Bolton, previously a SC member, has become the junior Co-Chair for 1990, the senior Co-Chair for 1991, and a SC member again in 1992.

Dr. Douglas A. Feldman, who had served as Chair and then Co-Chair for the past three years, has declined to seek re-election as Co-Chair again, but was elected to a three-year term (through 1992) on the SC. He has agreed to continue to serve as senior Co-Editor of the AARG Newsletter through the March, 1990 issue. All editorial material should continue to be sent to him through March 9, 1990, and then to Dr. Lang after that date.

Dr. Moses Pounds will continue as Treasurer and was elected to a three-year term on the SC. Dr. Merrill Singer and Dr. Janet McGrath are new officers and were elected to two-year terms on the SC. Dr. Susanna Hoffman was also elected to a two-year term on the SC. Mr. Paul Farmer was elected to a one-year term on the SC, and Ms. Lucia Cargill will continue as Secretary and was elected to a one-year term on the SC. New elections will occur next in September, 1990.

RESOLUTION ON BLEACH PASSED

The AARG membership present at our National Roundtable on AIDS, which was held on November 18, 1989 at the American Anthropological Association in Washington, D.C., voted to recommend that the AARG Steering Committee send a letter to President George Bush opposing any legislative amendment that would restrict the use of bleach in HIV control

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#### RESEARCH PROPOSALS SOUGHT

The National Institute of Justice is actively seeking research proposals from anthropologists and other behavioral scientists that would focus upon the ethnography of illicit substance abusers and HIV infection. For information, contact Bernard A. Gropper, Ph.D., U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, 633 Indiana Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20531 USA; (202) 724-7631.

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#### REGIONAL MEETING IN SOUTH FLORIDA

The second AARG South Florida Regional Meeting was held on September 28, 1989 at the University of Miami School of Medicine and co-chaired by Dr. J. Bryan Page and Dr. Douglas A. Feldman. It was also attended by Tove Brewer, Michelle Mottola, and Mr. Prince C. Smith. There was a general discussion on the status of social science research on HIV infection in South Florida. The next meeting will occur on March 5, 1990 from 12:15 - 2:00 P.M. at the University of Miami School of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, 1029 N.W. 15th Street, Room 1005, Miami, Florida, USA. For additional information, call Dr. Douglas A. Feldman at (305) 547-6559.

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#### REGIONAL MEETING IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

The first Northern California regional meeting of AARG was held on September 16, 1989, coordinated by Dr. Susanna Hoffman, Dr. Barbara Koenig, and Ms. Moher Downing. It was also attended by Dr. Elizabeth Colson, Richard Cowan, David Eaton, Michael Kozart, Brenda Phillips, Julie Ruben, Dr. Roulette Smith, and Meryle Weinstein. Those attending discussed their particular areas of AIDS-related research and concern. The second meeting was held on December 2, 1989, and the next issue of the AARG Newsletter should have an update on that meeting. The next meeting will be held sometime in March at the Good and Plenty Cafe, California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, California, USA. For additional information, call Dr. Susanna Hoffman at (415) 547-1066.

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among intravenous drug users. The Steering Committee, forming a quorum at the meeting, voted unanimously to send the letter.

The resolution states: "We the 133 members of the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group of the American Anthropological Association, are very concerned about the spread of the AIDS epidemic and are committed to promoting the prevention of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Disinfecting needles and syringes with bleach has been proven to be safe and effective in killing HIV. Bleach distribution does not contribute to intravenous drug use, but when combined with AIDS education has been demonstrated to increase the demand for drug treatment. Bleach should be an essential part in the war against drugs and the campaign against AIDS."

"Many anthropologists are working in the struggle against AIDS through programs that promote the use of bleach. Therefore, we would strongly oppose any legislative amendment that limits that distribution of bleach, or literature concerning needle and syringe cleansing through any federally funded community program, service, or project, to the users of intravenous drugs."

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#### LET'S HEAR FROM YOU

If you have an announcement or brief communication that you would like to have included in the next issue of the AARG Newsletter, please send it to us by March 9, 1990.

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#### REVISED AARG MEMBERSHIP LIST

The revised AARG membership list for December, 1989 is attached to your AARG Newsletter. There have been many changes made to this revision. Please check to see that your listing is correct and complete. Be sure to send us your bitnet code and fax numbers, if applicable. Changes should be sent to our Membership and Subscriptions Office by March 9, 1990.

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### STD IN THE AGE OF AIDS

The 35th General Assembly of the International Union against the Venereal Diseases and the Treponematoses will be held under the auspices of the Royal Society of Medicine in London on May 9-11, 1990. The theme of the international meeting will be "Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the Age of AIDS." The deadline for proposed abstracts for oral presentations or poster sessions is February 15, 1990. The registration fee before March 1 is £130. For information and forms, contact: Ms. Fiona L. Morris, Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE, United Kingdom.

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### NONANTHROPOLOGISTS URGE MORE ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH

There was a clear call for more anthropological research on AIDS at the National Conference on HIV Infection and AIDS, according to the August 21, 1989 issue of AIDS Update (2(16):2-3). Dr. Lawrence Brown, a physician with the Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation (Brooklyn, New York), told participants that "ethnography is particularly critical." He pointed out that "more biomedical people need to look more closely at the utility of ethnography... as should epidemiologists consider it an ally." Other nonanthropologists attending the conference on AIDS among minorities also spoke in support of anthropological research.

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### AIDS SESSIONS AT THE AAA

It seemed as though 1989 was the year that AIDS came of age with seminars, panels, and special meetings at the American Anthropological Association (AAA) in Washington, D.C. After years of occasional, and relatively poorly attended, AIDS sessions at the AAA meetings, 1989 uniquely was a year of numerous AIDS and anthropology sessions which were remarkably well-attended.

The AIDS-related sessions began on November 15th with "Intravenous Drug Use Research: the Development of the Street Ethnographer," chaired by Kevin Olive, Dr. William W. Dressler, and Dr. Mac Marshall. Dr. Morris G. Lang was the discussant.

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### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Centers for Disease Control is looking for one or more anthropologists to work on AIDS research. Contact Gary R. Noble, M.D., Director, HIV/AIDS Programs, Centers for Disease Control, 1600 Clifton Road, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30333 for information. Mention that you saw this announcement in the AARG Newsletter.

If you are an employer looking for an anthropologist for an AIDS-related position, please send your announcement to us at our Editorial Office by March 9, 1990 for the March, 1990 issue. There is no charge for this service.

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### CONSULTANT ROSTER

AARG has a new Consultant Roster, and has already sent sets of xeroxed copies of our roster to two employers who have requested it to fill AIDS-related consulting positions. If you would like to be included in the roster for possible future AIDS-related consulting positions, please complete the AARG Consultant Roster Form which we are attaching once again to the Newsletter. Include your name, address, phone(s), geographical areas of interest, topical areas of interest, availability, consulting experience, other AIDS-related experience, foreign language ability, your signature, and the date. Mail it to us at our Editorial Office.

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### NEW SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS BEGINS

In the same envelope with this Newsletter you will find the first in what may become a series of occasionally published AARG Special Publications. They are intended to provide brief (500-600 word) summaries of current research or policy statements on AIDS. Much of what is published in the literature on AIDS by anthropologists appears a year or more after it is first written. But this series will permit a turn around time of as little as two months between submission and publication. Our first AARG Special Publication is "Current Directions in Anthropological Issues on AIDS." We hope to produce our next one in late 1990. We welcome your comments.

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Some of the papers in the session, "Research on Health and Illness," chaired by Dr. Carole Hill, were also AIDS-related.

On November 16th, Dr. Stephanie Kane and Dr. Theresa Mason chaired "Ethnographic Inquiry and Social Action: the AIDS Crisis." Dr. Moses Pounds and Dr. Brooke Schoepf were the discussants. AIDSCOM hosted a panel discussion on "Ethnographic Research and AIDS Prevention," where they welcomed and encouraged anthropological input in global AIDS prevention. Some of the papers at the invited session "Anthropology in a Multidisciplinary Field: Substance Abuse," chaired by M. Jean Gilbert, were AIDS-related. AARG held our well-attended semi-annual business meeting, chaired by Dr. Douglas A. Feldman and Dr. Morris G. Lang. It was followed by our semi-annual open cash bar. Two of the Society for Medical Anthropology wine and cheese roundtables were on AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases.

On November 17th, one of the Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA) luncheon roundtables was on fieldwork with AIDS patients. The Association of Black Anthropologists and SMA sponsored a panel on "Blacks, AIDS and Public Policy," chaired by Dr. Tony Whitehead. Mr. William G. Hawkeswood chaired a discussion on "Anthropology and AIDS: Issues Confronting the Anthropologists in the Field."

On November 18th, AARG held its semi-annual National Roundtable on AIDS, chaired by Dr. Douglas A. Feldman and Dr. Morris G. Lang. Dr. Merrill Singer and Patricia Marshall chaired "The Politics of AIDS." Dr. Ralph Bolton was the discussant.

On November 19th, the appointed members of the AAA Task Force on AIDS held a five hour long meeting. The Task Force then sponsored a session, "Social Dimensions of AIDS in Third World Settings," which was chaired by Dr. Melanie Sovine. Dr. Brooke Schoepf was the discussant. Reprints of all published abstracts on AIDS at the AAA are included in a supplement to this Newsletter. It also includes abstracts of volunteered papers presented at non-AIDS-related sessions.

#### AIDS IN AFRICA MEETING HELD IN ATLANTA

The African Studies Association held a 2½ day series of panels on "AIDS in Africa: the Global Context" in Atlanta in November, 1989. Participants included key representatives from the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and other organizations. Anthropologists who participated were Dr. Barbara Boyle Torrey ("International Research on AIDS"), Dr. Priscilla Reining ("Ethnographic Data on Circumcision and HIV Seropositivity in Eastern Africa"), Dr. Barbara de Salduondo ("Behavioral and Social Risks of AIDS"), Dr. Brooke Schoepf ("Responses to AIDS in Jaire: an Update"), Dr. Christine Obbo ("AIDS, Women, and Children in Uganda"), Dr. Ruth Finney Hayward (discussant for a panel on "AIDS, Women and Children"), and Dr. Douglas A. Feldman (discussant for a panel on "AIDS and the Educator: Resources and Approaches"). Dr. Norman Miller organized the conference.

One area of uncertainty expressed at the conference was the future overall impact of AIDS upon Africa. Some policy planners, especially macroeconomists, were less pessimistic about the future of sub-Saharan Africa than were most social scientists, especially anthropologists, who were present. However, there was a general consensus among epidemiologist, policy planners, and social scientists alike that anthropological research on AIDS in Africa is absolutely essential at this time.

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#### LETTER FROM THE FORMER CO-CHAIR

When a few of my colleagues suggested that I start the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group back in December, 1986, there were no more than two dozen anthropologists involved in AIDS research or activities. I had no idea then that our membership list would grow to over 130 names today, making it the largest research group in the American Anthropological Association. I also had no idea then that our quarterly informational letter would grow into the AARG Newsletter, with various published supplements. The rapid growth of AARG

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AARG STEERING COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Norris G. Lang, Ph.D.  
Ralph Bolton, Ph.D.

Treasurer: Moses B. Pounds, Ph.D.

Secretary: Lucia Carqill, M.A., B.S.N.

Steering Committee

Paul Farmer  
Douglas A. Feldman, Ph.D.  
Susanna Hoffman, Ph.D.  
Janet McGrath, Ph.D.  
Merrill Singer, Ph.D.

AARG Newsletter Co-Editors:

Douglas A. Feldman, Ph.D.  
Norris G. Lang, Ph.D.

Editorial Office:

Send all editorial and materials before  
March 9, 1990 to:  
AARG, c/o Douglas A. Feldman, Ph.D.  
University of Miami School of Medicine  
Department of Epidemiology and  
Public Health  
P. O. Box 016069  
Miami, FL 33101 USA  
(305) 547-6559

Membership and Subscriptions Office:

AARG, c/o Moses B. Pounds, Ph.D.  
Treasurer, 1303 Northview Road  
Baltimore, MD 21218 USA  
(301) 328-8334

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PAPERS SOUGHT

The Milbank Quarterly is looking for quality research-based policy papers on HIV spectrum disease by anthropologists for future issues of their journal. For more information, contact Mr. Scott V. Parris, Associate Editor, The Milbank Quarterly, Milbank Memorial Fund, 1 East 75th Street, New York, NY 10021 USA; (212) 570-4805.

represents an equally rapid growth in the level of commitment and concern of anthropologists around the world to the challenge of AIDS. Today, AARG holds semi-annual national roundtable meetings on AIDS, semi-annual Cash Bar Receptions, semi-annual Business and Steering Committee meetings, publishes abstracts of anthropological research on AIDS, publishes the quarterly AARG Newsletter and revised membership lists with topical and geographical key words, and publishes a Special Publications series of brief statements by key anthropologists on AIDS. Our often quarterly regional AARG roundtable meetings are beginning to become very successful in bringing anthropologists interested in AIDS together on a regular basis. Regional meetings have been held in New York City, Northern California, Southern California, South Florida, and Chicago, and new sites in 1990 should include Washington, D.C., Boston, Hartford, Northern Arizona, Denver, and Rio de Janeiro.

AARG has initiated an AIDS research study project to facilitate the sharing of information among anthropologists conducting research on AIDS (the results will soon become available). We have begun to compile a consultant roster for possible future AIDS-related consulting positions. We provide free space for employment opportunities for anthropologists interested in AIDS research and service, a cooperation column, and free space for relevant announcements.

The leadership of AARG has met, formally or informally, with the leadership of the World Bank, Centers for Disease Control, Greater New York Fund-United Way, Academy for Educational Development, (AIDSCOW), U.S. Agency for International Development, Family Health International (AIDSTECH), UNICEF, and the World Health Organization in order to let them know what contribution anthropologists are making in AIDS research, education, and services. Dozens of AARG Newsletters are mailed free of charge to key policy makers on AIDS in order to keep them informed of the AIDS-related activities of anthropologists.

I served as Chair until October, 1988, when I appointed Dr. Norris G. Lang as Co-Chair. I continued in my position as Co-Chair until December, 31, 1989, having decided not to seek election for a fourth year in a chairing position.

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#### COOPERATION COLUMN

Dr. Barbara A. Koenig (Hastings Center and University of California, San Francisco) is interested in hearing from anyone working on the impact of AIDS on health professionals, particularly physicians or house officers. Also, if anyone has worked on a related topic in France, or done ethnographic AIDS research of any kind in France, she would appreciate hearing from them. Address: 1459 5th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122 USA; phone: (415) 476-9046 or (415) 664-6434.

Dr. Douglas A. Feldman (University of Miami School of Medicine) would like to hear from anyone working on the sexual behavior of married and unmarried bisexual men with AIDS or HIV-related symptoms in the United States. Address: University of Miami, R-669, P.O.B. 016069, Miami, FL 33101 USA; (305) 547-6559.

If you would like to participate in our next Cooperation Column, please send your material to the Editorial Office of AARG by March 9, 1990.

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#### FUTURE CONFERENCES

March 11-14, 1990 - National Conference of Community/Street AIDS Outreach Workers and Supervisors, Bethesda, Maryland, USA. Contact: Beverly Fleming, Washington Area AIDS Consortium of Street Outreach Associations, Conference Planning Committee, 1407 S Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009 USA; (202) 387-2926.

March 19-20, 1990 - AIDS Update for HIV Counselors, Birmingham, Alabama, USA. Contact: Loretta Myricks, Jefferson County Health Department, Birmingham STD Prevention and Training Center, 1400 Sixth Avenue S., Room 102, Birmingham, AL 35202 USA; (202) 930-1574.

March 28-April 1, 1990 - International Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology, York, England, United Kingdom. Contact: Marilyn Poland, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48201 USA; (313) 577-1147.

I will, however, continue for a three-year term as a Steering Committee member of AARG. Dr. Norris G. Lang and Dr. Ralph Bolton will co-chair AARG in 1990 (see "New AARG Officers Elected" on page 1).

Developing AARG into the large organization that it has become was not easy, but was well worth it. The development of AARG required the unselfish assistance of a number of anthropologists, particularly Dr. Mary Catherine Bateson, Dr. Ralph Bolton, Ms. Lucia Cargill, Dr. Francis Conant, Mr. Paul Farmer, Dr. E. Michael Gorman, Dr. Susanna Hoffman, Dr. Norris G. Lang, Dr. Moses B. Pounds, Dr. Michael D. Quam, and Dr. Roy A. Rappaport. We should thank them all.

-Douglas A. Feldman, Ph.D.

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#### FUTURE CONFERENCES

April 1-4, 1990 - AIDS, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Contact: Mia Pesinis, Johns Hopkins University, School of Public Health, Public Affairs Office, 615 North Wolfe Street, Room 1605, Baltimore, MD 21205 USA; (301) 955-6878.

April 9-12, 1990 - The Theory and Practice of Safer Drug Use: International Conference on Harm Reduction - First, Liverpool, England, United Kingdom. Contact: Pat O'Hare, Mersey Drug Training and Information Centre, 10 Maryland Street, Liverpool L1 9BX, England, U.K.; (44) 051-709 3511.

June 16-19, 1990 - AIDS '90: The Social Work Response - The Second International Conference on Social Work and AIDS, San José, California, USA. Contact: Manuel Fimbres, San José State University, School of Social Work, 1 Washington Square, San José, CA 95192-0124 USA; (408) 924-5800.

June 18-19, 1990 - International HIV Conference - Second: Counseling, Testing and Early Care, San Francisco, California, USA. Contact: John Henning, Office of HIV/AIDS, American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60610 USA; (312) 645-4566.