

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 4 SEPTEMBER 1990

AARG EVENTS PLANNED AT AAA IN NEW ORLEANS

The AIDS and Anthropology Research Group will host several events at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association later this year in New Orleans. All events are scheduled in the New Orleans Hilton Hotel. The official sponsor for all of these events is the Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA), our parent organization. Confirmation has been received for the following events:

- (1) The National Roundtable on AIDS, Thursday, November 29, 1990, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM. Room: Oak Alley.
- (2) AIDS and Anthropology Research Group Business Meeting, Thursday, November 29, 1990, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM. Room: Grand Ballroom C.
- (3) Cash Bar Reception, Thursday, November 29, 1990, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM. Room: Grand Ballroom C.
- (4) The date, time, and place for the steering committee meeting has yet to be determined. More than likely it will be held in a member's room one hour prior to the business meeting. This information will have to be informally communicated.

In addition (see April Newsletter), there are four AIDS-related sessions that AARG will be sponsoring or co-sponsoring through the Society for Medical Anthropology. Other sessions will be offered; that information is not yet available. Look for the time, dates, and room assignments for all of these sessions in the September issue of the Newsletter of the American Anthropological Association.

COOPERATION COLUMN

Vincent E. Gil, Ph.D., an AARG member, has been invited to take part in a delegation of HIV/AIDS researchers to the Peoples Republic of China (PRC). The aim of the delegation is to provide a technical exchange with medical,

epidemiological, and behavioral personnel in the PRC on the management and control of HIV. He is requesting that other AARG members who have come across any published reports on the HIV situation in the PRC contact him as soon as possible at the following address: Vincent E. Gil, Ph.D., Clinical Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology-Sociology, Southern California College, Fifty-Five Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California 92626. The delegation will depart in November of 1990.

SYMPOSIUM ON AIDS AT THE NORTHEASTERN ANTHROPOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The Northeast Anthropological Association annual meeting (March 28-31) in Burlington, Vermont, included a double symposium on AIDS entitled Community Approaches to AIDS Research and Prevention. The sessions were organized by Merrill Singer, Ph.D., Jean Schensul, Ph.D., and Margaret Weeks, Ph.D., and included 9 papers exploring community based AIDS prevention experiences in Hartford, Connecticut. In Hartford, anthropologists play a significant role in a number of community based AIDS prevention and research programs. These include Project COPE, a community consortium project designed to develop, implement, and test the effectiveness of culturally appropriate AIDS outreach and education for IV drug users and their sexual partners; the Comunidad and Responsibilidad Project, a Hispanic Health Council effort to design and test culturally appropriate AIDS education for Hispanic women using community training and home meetings; and the AIDS Community Research Group, a collaborative effort of community research institutes to provide timely survey information on knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to AIDS in African American, Hispanic, and Italian neighborhoods.

EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER BY DOUGLAS FELDMAN, Ph.D., TO ROBERT
M. WACHTER, M.D., PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE SIXTH
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS, MAY 21, 1990.

"As founder of the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group and co-founder of the American Anthropological Association Task Force on AIDS, I was dismayed to learn that only three of the 335 presenting authors at the Sixth International Conference on AIDS in San Francisco this year are anthropologists. Since 1981, anthropologists have been playing an increasingly vital role in understanding the sociocultural processes that AIDS has had on humankind throughout the world, in developing culturally sensitive

educational and intervention programs, in evaluating domestic and international AIDS-related health care and social services, and in elucidating biosocial epidemiological patterns in the global transmission of HIV. Conference attendees will undoubtedly suffer greatly in their comprehension of AIDS and cultural behavior from the omission of a representative core of anthropological data and insights."

"The problem appears to stem from the lack of anthropological input on the scientific program committees. Only one of the 91 committee members on the local track committees, which make the final decisions, is an anthropologist. Indeed, the Chair of the Social Science and Policy committee (Track D) is himself a physician, not a social scientist."

"I have been advised that the local track committee members were explicitly instructed to generally favor accepting abstract submissions from developing nations over comparable ones from the United States. However, the majority of anthropologists involved in AIDS research and policy are North Americans. What is perhaps more disturbing is the decision to define 'high quality research' by the quantitative data and methodology presented in the abstracts. But the hallmark of most good anthropological research has always been its emphasis upon ethnography and other qualitative research methodologies."

SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL OF SEX RESEARCH DEVOTED TO
AIDS, ANTHROPOLOGY, AND SEX.

The Journal of Sex Research will be publishing a Special Issue entitled "AIDS, Anthropology, and Sex." This special issue will be published in May, 1991, and will include papers drawn from the American Anthropological Association's AIDS Task Force.

COMPREHENSIVE ANTHROPOLOGY AND AIDS BIBLIOGRAPHY
BEING COMPILED.

A bibliography of anthropological papers and publications dealing with AIDS and anthropology will be published in the JOURNAL OF SEX RESEARCH as part of the special issue referred to in the preceding item. AARG members can be of assistance in making this bibliography as complete as possible if they would send copies of their publications and/or citations to their works to Ralph Bolton, Dept. of

Anthropology, Pomona College, Claremont, CA 91711. At present the bibliography contains more than 400 entries. The final version will include materials published through March 1991. Following the publication of this bibliography, the authors plan to produce periodic updates to be published in the AARG Newsletter.

NETWORKING WITH OUR COLLEAGUES IN SOCIOLOGY.

SAN (Sociologists AIDS Network) is a network of sociologists with goals similar to AARG. Like AARG, a key goal of SAN is networking, and one aspect of this is a quarterly newsletter. Please include any information you would like included in their next issue of the newsletter to the editor: Edward L. Kain, Department of Sociology, Southwestern University, Georgetown University, Georgetown, Texas 78626. They also have a membership directory. They are encouraging networking among professionals in the different fields.

CDC PUBLICATION AVAILABLE.

The Centers for Disease Control has a new publication out which might be of interest to anthropologists working in the field. It is entitled "Strategic Plan for Prevention of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection. Draft--For Public Review and Comment. 1990 and Beyond. Copies are available from: CDC, Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia 30333.

ATF CURRICULUM PROJECT

Work is proceeding on the Curriculum Project sponsored by the AIDS and Anthropology Task Force. The goal of this project is to publish materials which will assist anthropologists in the preparation of courses on AIDS and in incorporating the topic of AIDS into other relevant courses throughout the discipline. Anthropologists who are teaching courses on AIDS are asked to send sample syllabi for inclusion in the anticipated volume which should be ready for publication toward the end of 1990. In addition, the Curriculum Project Committee is interested in receiving modules on AIDS for courses in diverse subfields of anthropology, e.g., legal anthropology, political

anthropology, gender studies, family and kinship, the anthropology of ethnographic regions (Africa, South America, and others), psychological anthropology, and applied anthropology. A sheet enclosed with this mailing of the newsletter contains suggestions for the types of information that should be included in these modules. All members of AARG are encouraged to prepare a module or two for subfields of the discipline in which they are specialists as a service to other specialists in those subfields who are not yet involved in AIDS but who might be encouraged to incorporate materials on this topic if provided with some suggestions and guidelines. Send inquiries and materials to: Ralph Bolton, Dept. of Anthropology, Pomona College, Claremont, CA 91711; (714) 621-8000, ext. 2228 or (714) 625-2133; FAX 714 621-8403; Bitnet RBOLTON@POMONA.CLAREMONT.EDU.

NOMINATIONS FOR AARG STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS
AND JUNIOR CO-CHAIR SOLICITED.

The AIDS and Anthropology Research Group is soliciting nominations for steering committee members and a junior co-chair for 1991. Two positions on the steering committee are to become available this year. Any current dues paid member is eligible for nomination and election. Retiring steering committee members are Paul Farmer and Lucia Cargill. Ms. Cargill presently serves as the secretary for AARG. Other steering committee members with their dates for expiration as members of the steering committee are Norris G. Lang (1992), the current senior co-chair and editor of the AARG newsletter; Ralph Bolton, the current junior co-chair (1993); Douglas Feldman (1992); Moses Pounds, treasurer (1992); Merrill Singer (1991); Janet McGrath (1991); and Susanna Hoffman (1991).

Nominations should be returned to Norris G. Lang by October 15th. Election ballots for the two steering committee memberships and the junior co-chair of AARG will be included. All current steering committee members and nominees will be considered as candidates for the junior co-chair position. There will be two parts to the election ballot: the first part will be for the steering committee positions; the second part will be for the junior co-chair position. Those receiving the highest number of votes for steering committee positions will take office January 1, 1991. Out of all the ballots cast for the position of junior co-chair, the individual receiving the highest number of votes will take office January 1, 1991.

AARG SEEKS PARTICIPANTS FOR
SFA ANNUAL MEETING IN CHARLESTON, SC

The fiftieth anniversary meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology will be held in Charleston, SC, March 13th - 17th, 1991. A recent flyer announced that "The program Committee invites a wide array of proposals for papers and sessions on the theme: BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND THEORY IN CONTEXTS OF ACTION. For five decades, in keeping with the charter purposes of the Society, scholars and practitioners have sought to understand how people operate in settings that have been shaped by human activities, plans, and goals. We have sought to derive principles that can be applied to the practical problems of the time. We derive and represent such principles in many different ways: create case studies, construct formal theories and models, depict decision making, chronicle events, develop rules of thumb, etc. And one of our chief tests for any principle or model or theory has been its usefulness in contexts of action."

The AARG co-chairs encourage and solicit your participation in the Society's annual meeting. AARG, in an effort to make our presence a continuing tradition, would like to sponsor sessions dealing with various aspects of HIV. Proposals are due OCTOBER 31, 1990. If you have ideas or aspirations for such participation, contact either one of AARG's co-chairs, and we will be happy to discuss your proposal with one of the program committee members. Or, you may contact one of the program committee members yourself. They are listed in the current issue of Human Organization, Volume 49, Fall 1990, Number 3.

INFORMATION FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter hopefully will come out in November prior to the annual meetings of the AAA in New Orleans, LA. Please send any information which you would like included in the issue of this newsletter to our editorial office: Norris G. Lang, Senior Co-Chair, AARG, Department of Anthropology, University of Houston, Houston, TX 77204-5882.