

**MICRONUTRIENT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP  
(HNR-A-00-98-00027-00)**

**Progress Report**

**Activities over the Past Six Months (1 April –30 September, 2001)**

**IVACG**

- Continued to pay reimbursements for funded participants for the XX IVACG Meeting held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 12-15 February 2001.
- Began work on the IVACG meeting report, which will be published in *The Journal of Nutrition*. The report will consist of the primary papers presented at the XX IVACG Meeting in Hanoi, the rapporteurs' report, an introduction, and the abstracts of poster and oral presentations from the meeting.

The primary papers reflect the substance of the discussions held in Annecy, France (30 October – 2 November 2000). Therefore, no additional Annecy report has been developed to date.

- Organized an IVACG Steering Committee meeting for 1 August 2001 at the new ILSI office (One Thomas Circle, NW, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington, DC 20005-5802). The primary purpose of the meeting was to agree on the site of the next IVACG meeting (Morocco), to identify topics for abstract submissions, and to set the time frame for the meeting (February or March 2003). Minutes of the meeting were prepared and distributed.
- Invited Dr. Kraissid Tontisirin, FAO, to join the IVACG Steering Committee.
- Established contact with the Local Organizing Committee for the XXI IVACG Meeting to be held in Morocco in February or March 2003 through the Moroccan Ministry of Health. Also requested and received permission from the USAID Mission to send a site visit team to locate a venue for the meeting. Issued an electronic message to all individuals in the IVACG data bank and vitamin A list server alerting them to the place and approximate timing of the XXI IVACG Meeting.
- Circulated a revised "Vitamin A Conversions" bookmark that incorporates the new values put forth by the National Academies of Sciences' Food and Nutrition Board. There are some outstanding issues on several of the values which are being discussed by members of the steering committee with the National Academies.

- No further substantial discussions occurred between WHO and IVACG on the revision of “Vitamin A Supplements – A Guide to Their Use in the Treatment and Prevention of Vitamin A Deficiency.”
- Revised IVACG web site.
- Exhibited IVACG publications at the 17<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Nutrition in Vienna, Austria in August 2001.
- Made no progress on an IVACG statement describing the role of plant foods in meeting vitamin A requirements because of the scientific debate between Dr. Clive West, who will author this statement, and the National Academies of Sciences.
- Agreed with the International Zinc Consultative Group to exchange draft documents prior to publication. Invited IZiNCG to host a one-day meeting following the XXI IVACG Meeting.

### INACG

- Distributed the summary of the INACG Strategic Planning Meeting on 17 February 2001 to the meeting participants.
- Distributed the minutes of the 17 February 2001 INACG Steering Committee meeting.
- Sent a letter supporting an iron goal in the World Summit for Children document.
- Invited Dr. Olivia Yambi, UNICEF, to join the INACG Steering Committee.
- Issued an electronic announcement for the 2003 INACG Symposium to all individuals in the INACG database and iron listserve.
- Circulated the rapporteurs’ report from the INACG Symposium to the INACG Steering Committee Chairman and Dr. Penelope Nestel for comments. The report incorporates the expanded abstracts provided by each speaker and a summary of the discussion after each presentation. The report will also include the abstracts of posters presented at the meeting.
- Paid reimbursements to those funded to attend the INACG Symposium in Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Revised the INACG web site.

- Exhibited INACG publications at the 17<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Nutrition in Vienna, Austria in August 2001.

#### Targeted Operational Research

- Made final payment to Dr. Namen Ahulawalia after receipt of a revised final report. Final reports from Drs. Eric Gershwin and Stanley Zlotkin were returned to the investigators with requested revisions. Dr. Penelope Nestel circulated her final report on the Sri Lankan wheat fortification trial to external reviewers. Payments were made on schedule to Dr. Paul Arthur for a trial in Ghana.
- Dr. Penelope Nestel, MGL Coordinator, oversaw collaboration between South Africans and Tanzanians to develop a proposal with the International Potato Center for two efficacy trials for high-beta-carotene sweet potatoes. Will be jointly funded by UAAID/AFR, Micronutrient Initiative, and possibly GTZ.
- Dr. Nestel liased with IAEA, WHO and Dr. Sherry Tanumihardjo to develop a proposal for a stable isotope study in post-partum women receiving vitamin A. IAEA has requested a full proposal.
- Dr. Nestel liased with WHO and Dr. Sherry Tanumihardjo to include MRDR measurements in the Ghana trial testing post-partum vitamin A supplementation. USAID EPI will provide the funds.
- Developed with the MOST Project an important literature identification service for developing country program planners and managers. Quarterly, a series of nutrition journals will be reviewed for papers with operational significance. An abstract was developed for each such paper for electronic distribution to the MOST mailing list.

#### Expert Panel Consultations

- Funded ten participants to the 17<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Nutrition sponsored by the International Union of Nutritional Scientists in Vienna, Austria on 27-31 August 2001. Several were speakers in a session entitled “Translating Science into Programs” on 30 August 2001.
- Funded four participants for a planning meeting for a conference on nutrition as a preventive strategy for life-threatening pregnancy-related complications. The planning meeting was held in London. Dr. Penelope Nestel, MGL Coordinator, organized the meeting jointly with the Wellcome Trust.
- Funded two participants for a zinc meeting held at Wageningen University in June 2001.

- Completed by Dr. Penelope Nestel, MGL Coordinator:
  - Description of how to adjust hemoglobin values for specific factors, i.e. age, altitude, etc. Now being reviewed.
  - Description of the differences between anemia, iron deficiency anemia and iron deficiency. Now under review by the INACG Steering Committee.
  - Worked with WHO to identify consultant to develop USAID/WHO global strategic plan for vitamin A.
  - Description of micronutrient indicators for women for use by the MEASURE project.
  - Attended ACC/SCN meeting in Nairobi, Kenya on 1-6 April 2001.
  - Attended reporting-out meeting for multiple micronutrient supplement trials in children on 29-31 May 2001 in Peru.
  
- Resumed editing of the food fortification quality assurance manual with help from Dr. Nestel.

#### MGL Administration

- Trip report for the Hanoi IVACG and INACG meetings was submitted to USAID.
  
- Staffing changes – Following a public search and with USAID concurrence, Ms. Veronica Triana was hired as the IVACG/INACG Project Manager.
  
- Work plan for FY02 submitted and approved.
  
- All necessary financial reports were submitted to USAID, including pipeline reports.

#### **Activities Planned for the Next Six Months (1 October 2001 – 31 March 2002)**

##### IVACG

- Plan and execute site visit to Morocco to select the venue for the XXI IVACG Meeting. Meet with Local Organizing Committee and reach agreement on who will have what responsibilities in planning for the XXI IVACG (IVACG Activities 2a-d, FY02 work plan). A trip report will be submitted to USAID.
  
- Send out formal call for abstracts (IVACG Activity 2e, FY02 work plan).
  
- Complete XX IVACG Meeting proceedings and submit to *The Journal of Nutrition* for publication as a supplement (IVACG Activity 3a, FY02 work plan).
  
- Circulate a draft IVACG statement on maternal night blindness prepared by Dr. Parul Christian, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, to the IVACG Steering

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- Committee for review. Print and distribute final statement (IVACG Activity 3c, FY02 work plan).
- Organize IVACG Steering Committee meeting in February 2002, if deemed necessary (IVACG Activity 1a, FY02 work plan).
- Print revised IVACG conversion bookmark once ongoing discussions between Dr. Clive West and the US National Academies of Sciences are completed. Circulate Dr. West's draft statement on plants as source of vitamin A when available. (IVACG Activities 3b and d, FY02 work plan).
- Increase activity on vitamin A listserv (Other Activity 6, FY02 work plan).
- Continue website updates.

### INACG

- Plan and execute a conference call for the INACG Steering Committee to discuss topics for abstracts at the 2003 INACG Symposium (INACG Activity 1a, FY02 work plan) and determine the theme and general format for an INACG Regional Meeting (INACG Activity 3, FY02).
- Prepare and distribute the call for abstracts for the 2003 INACG Symposium (INACG Activity 2a, FY02 work plan).
- Conduct site visit, if necessary, and complete early planning for INACG Regional Meeting (INACG Activity 3a-b, FY02 work plan).
- Circulate the 2001 INACG Symposium report to the INACG Steering Committee for approval, then publish and distribute (INACG Activity 4a, FY02 work plan).
- Circulate revised "black book" on field trials to INACG Steering Committee for review and prepare for publication (INACG Activity 4c, FY02 work plan).
- Monitor preparation of a revision of the INACG "black book" on assessment and a new approach to determining iron status (INACG Activity 4b, FY02 work plan).
- Increase activity on iron listserv (Other Activity 6, FY02 work plan).
- Continue website updates.

### Targeted Operational Research

- Monitor progress of the Arthur grant (TOR Activity 1a, FY02 work plan).

- Review and approve Beard, Gershwin, Nestel and Zlotkin final reports (TOR Activity 1b and 4b, FY02 work plan).
- Provide grant to Dr. H. Sachdev for a meta-analysis of data relating hemoglobin and anthropometric measures (TOR Activity 2a, FY02 work plan).

#### Expert Panel Consultations

- Dr. Penelope Nestel, MGL Coordinator, will oversee the following:
  - Planning for USAID/Wellcome Trust consultation on nutrition as a preventive strategy for life-threatening pregnancy-related complications to be held in May 2002 (EPC Activity 3a, FY02 work plan).
  - Drafting global strategic plan for vitamin A with WHO (EPC Activity 3b, FY02 work plan).
  - Planning with WHO and Nutriset/France a small technical consultation on composition and regimen for multi-micronutrient supplements (EPC Activity 3c, FY02 work plan).
  - Complete drafting of reference sheet for iron fortificants (EPC Activity 4d, FY02 work plan).
  - Review of hemoglobin adjustment guidance (EPC Activity 4c, FY02 work plan).
  - Review of myths and realities for micronutrients guidance (EPC Activity 4i, FY02 work plan).
- Prepare for publication, publish and distribute a series of documents developed by Dr. Nestel and others – food fortification quality assurance manual, anemia/IDA/ID descriptions, hemoglobin adjustment guidance, reference sheet for iron fortificants, and myths and realities for micronutrients (EPC Activities 4a, c-e, and i, FY02 work plan).
- Monitor ACC/SCN publications published under grant from MGL (TOR Activity 1c, FY02 work plan).

#### VITA

- Carry-out specific tasks for VITA as directed (Other Activity 7, FY02 work plan).

#### MGL Administration

- No staffing changes are anticipated.
- All required and requested financial reports will be provided on time.