

## International Traineeships in AIDS Prevention Studies (ITAPS)

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### Project Description

We sponsor four types of training:

#### *1. An intensive eight-week course in designing and conducting AIDS prevention research*

In our prevention research course, trainees develop a study protocol for implementation in their home countries. Subsequently, we provide assistance to obtain funding to field these pilot studies, and provide continued technical assistance from a CAPS faculty mentor.

#### *2. A six-week writing sabbatical/scientific manuscript preparation workshop*

Scientists who complete data collection can return to CAPS for a scientific writing workshop, in which we provide statistical support and faculty consultation for preparation of a scientific manuscript. In some cases, we also allow for individual writing sabbaticals; trainees receive similar support and consultation. The scientific writing workshop is open both to returning scholars who attended our research methods courses, and to other international collaborators who are ready to complete scientific manuscripts.

#### *3. A nine-month advanced research traineeship*

In our advanced research traineeship, visiting scientists prepare grant proposals for the US National Institutes of Health, on which the trainee is the principal investigator.

#### *4. Formal graduate study*

We also serve as a “portal of entry” for the AIDS International Research and Training Program at UC Berkeley for MPH and PhD degrees in epidemiology (Arthur Reingold, PI).

### Significance

Training of scientists from developing countries in US academic institutions has traditionally been through formal long-term instruction leading to advanced degrees or postdoctoral fellowships. We have developed an alternative model which combines short-course training in the US, faculty-supervised pilot studies in the trainee’s home country, and assistance in completion of scientific manuscripts. For our most successful trainees, we assist in grant proposal writing for which the trainee is the named PI.

### Interesting Findings

- Over the years, our emphasis has shifted from descriptive studies to intervention trials.
- Since 1988, we have trained 167 visiting scientists from 42 low- and middle-income countries.
- Our alumni have published nearly 1200 peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals.

**Project Recruitment Dates:** Each year 10-12 scientists from developing countries are selected to participate in the program through an application process initiated by our core faculty.

**Project Website:** [http://globalhealthsciences.ucsf.edu/PPHG/trainings\\_workshops/short\\_courses\\_ucsf.html](http://globalhealthsciences.ucsf.edu/PPHG/trainings_workshops/short_courses_ucsf.html)