The China AIDS Public Policy Training Project

Core Project Faculty

Sandra Burchett, MD, MS, is Director of the Office of International Programs at Harvard Medical School, Division of AIDS and Assistant Professor Pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Children’s Hospital, Boston and Harvard Medical School.

Sofia Gruskin, JD, MIA, is the Director of the program on International Health and Human Rights at the Francois-Xavier Bagourd Center for Health and Human Rights, and Associate Professor on Health and Human Rights in the Department of Population and International Health at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Cheng Feng, MD., is the China Country Director for Family Health International

Theodore M. Hammett, PhD, is a Vice President at Abt Associates, Inc. and an expert on HIV prevention among injecting drug users

Arnold M. Howitt, PhD, is Executive Director of the Taubman Center for State and Local Government at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He is an expert on multi-sectoral collaboration and leadership.

Jin Wei is Professor at the Institute for Social Development of the greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS in programs and policies, as well as orphans, AIDS-induced household and community poverty, including supports needed for children and families. The discussion focuses on international lessons learned and reviews community initiated programs worldwide.

Joan Kaufman, ScD, is the Director of the AIDS Public Policy Project at Harvard University; Lecturer in Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School; Senior Scientist at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University.

Li Dun is a lawyer and Professor of Law at Tsinghua University School of Law

Lisa Messersmith, PhD, is the Director of the Vietnam AIDS Public Policy Training Project at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Lora Sabin, PhD, is Assistant Professor and Development Economist at the Center for International Health and the Department for International Health at the Boston University School of Public Health.

Ru Xiaomei is the Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation at the National Population and Family Planning Commission of China

Tony Saich, PhD, is Daewoo Professor of International Affairs; Director and Faculty Chair of Asia Programs at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government at the Kennedy School of Government; and Director of the Asia Center, Harvard University.

Wang Routao is Director of the AIDS Resource Center, National Center for AIDS Prevention and Control, China Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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The Harvard-based project is housed within the Kennedy School of Government’s Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government / Asia Programs and draws on the wealth of intellectual resources in greater Boston area — including Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard Medical School, Harvard Law School, Harvard Business School, Boston University School of Public Health and Abt Associates, Inc. Several faculty members have extensive experience working in China.

Safe sexual behavior. The module examines the importance of the relationship between the success of prevention programs, supportive and enabling laws and policies and multi-sectoral coordination.

Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment
(Sandra Burchett, Zhao Hongxin)
HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment reviews medical aspects of HIV infection and progression to AIDS disease; the major modes of transmission and prevention of medically acquired infections by health workers; as well as treatment options and clinical AIDS care. The module explores best practices models for scaling up treatment programs in resource poor settings. Equity in access to effective treatment and the participation of affected individuals and communities in treatment access decisions are explored. The module also highlights the need to coordinate access to affordable drugs with national laws and policies on trade.

HIV/AIDS Impact Mitigation
(Lora Sabin, Jing Jun)
This module reviews best practices in mitigating the non-health impacts of the HIV epidemic at individual, household and community levels including programs aimed at addressing stigma and discrimination, the greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS in programs and policies, as well as orphans, AIDS-induced household and community poverty, including supports needed for children and families. The discussion focuses on international lessons learned and reviews community initiated programs worldwide.

Strategic Planning for Multi-sector Collaboration and Leadership
(Arnold Howitt, Ru Xiaomei, Jin Wei)
The Strategic Planning module provides a practical framework for analyzing the capacities of different organizations at national and sub-national levels, whose participation will be required for responding to the AIDS epidemic and for fostering successful partnerships. Using an organizational management framework focusing on values, capacity, and support of different institutions, the module teaches participants to better understand important stakeholders, their motivations, and the shared value of collaboration in responding to HIV/AIDS. These issues are contextualized through case exercises specifically developed for the course that highlight the requisite collaborations across sectors in implementing successful HIV prevention policy.

Course Management, Curriculum and Faculty
Faculty convened by Tsinghua University are drawn from its core faculty as well as from Chinese AIDS experts working on various aspects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in China.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE CHINA PROJECT

Faced with a growing national epidemic, high-level Chinese officials have strengthened the national policy response in recent years. An effective national AIDS response requires the participation and collaboration of a wide range of governmental and non-governmental agencies in developing prevention, treatment and impact mitigation programs and policies. While there has been a concerted effort to systematically engage such policy makers in implementing effective multi-sectoral AIDS programs through establishment of a State Council Working Group on AIDS and comparable provincial level bodies, additional efforts are needed to strengthen the understanding about effective multi sectoral response, especially at local levels. The AIDS Public Policy Training Program provides in-depth participatory training on international best practices for multi-sectoral collaboration on AIDS designed for the specific challenges facing different locales.

Curriculum Content

The Faculty convened by Tsinghua University and Harvard University have developed a training program for Chinese government and NGO leaders working in the sectors of health, public security, civil affairs, education, justice, commerce and trade, finance, planning and investment and foreign affairs. The course presents AIDS as a development issue requiring coordinated, evidence-based policy action and budget allocation. The curriculum covers economic, social and rights perspectives; the determinants and potential impacts of AIDS; international and Chinese best practices in prevention, treatment, and impact mitigation; and successful strategies for an effective multi-sectoral response, including practical strategies for improving governance and leadership for inter-sectoral and multi-level collaboration. The foundation of this curriculum has been developed by Harvard and Boston-based international AIDS experts, and has been adapted to the Chinese context by the team of Chinese and international faculty. The course combines lectures, teaching cases, group discussions and field visits to maximize policy makers’ exposure to the current HIV/AIDS issues. Strategic planning exercises at the end of the training are designed to contextualize the participants’ development of multi-sectoral AIDS response plans at both national and local levels.

AIDS as a Public Policy Issue

Joan Kaufman, Jing Jun

This module presents AIDS as a development issue and focuses on the need for multi-sectoral public policies and good governance for effective AIDS responses. It presents the key debates surrounding the AIDS response in most settings, including those pertaining to such issues as law enforcement versus risk reduction, how to best support sexual prevention of HIV, target group versus population based prevention, the balance of investments in prevention versus treatment and care, and the tensions between privacy protection and protecting the public. The roles of different sectors and institutions in effective AIDS responses, including the media and civil society, are at the module’s core, as well as the rationale for a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS that includes prevention, treatment and impact mitigation.

Development Impacts of HIV/AIDS

Lora Sabin, Jing Jun

Highlighting the social and economic effects of the AIDS epidemic over time, the Development Impacts of HIV/AIDS module focuses on the third wave of impacts, when AIDS deaths occur and families may be impoverished by medical expenses, loss of bread winners, and the loss of parents. The module examines the substantial social disruptions and the micro-level impacts on individuals, households and communities of large numbers of HIV/AIDS deaths, emphasizing the involvement of affected communities in the AIDS response, the plight of orphans, and psychosocial and inter-generational impacts. It also provides a framework for examining parallel micro-level economic short-term “shock” impacts, as well as longer-term economic effects.

Human Rights in the Context of HIV/AIDS

Sofia Gruskin, Li Dun, Wang Routao

Human Rights in the Context of HIV/AIDS reviews international rights agreements, the UNGASS commitments, and summarizes rights relevant to HIV/AIDS infected and affected individuals. The module introduces a vulnerability framework and demonstrates the relationship of rights protection to HIV vulnerability and risks. It explores concepts of progressive realization of rights; commitments of governments for rights protection of people living with HIV/AIDS and their families; the tensions between public health values and rights protection, demonstrating the instrumentality of the latter for the former.

Gender and HIV/AIDS

Lisa Messersmith, Jin Wei

The Gender and HIV/AIDS module provides an overview of gender power dynamics, sexuality and biological, social, economic and programmatic vulnerabilities in different countries, as well as in men, women, and young people to HIV. The module discusses the growing feminization of AIDS and explores the relationship between HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive rights. It highlights HIV/AIDS strategies to integrate gender perspectives into HIV/AIDS programs and policies for a more effective response.

Business in Response to HIV/AIDS

Joan Kaufman

Business Response to HIV/AIDS outlines the costs of AIDS to businesses and makes the case for why businesses should respond to AIDS. The module outlines different levels of response by businesses that include workplace policies, workplace programs for prevention, testing and treatment, outreach to families and communities where businesses and their employees are located, and corporate social responsibility initiatives on AIDS not directly related to the company’s work. The module examines links between government, NGOs and the business sector, including shared risks and opportunities for public-private partnership.

Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention

Theodore Hammert, Cheng Feng

Reviewing evidence-based international and Vietnamese best practices on HIV prevention, this module highlights the synergy of prevention with other aspects of a comprehensive response, especially treatment access via VCT programs. The module highlights the importance of targeted as well as more comprehensive approaches that address behavioral and structural vulnerability and risk, especially in the areas of injecting drug use and...