

# HAKUNA MATATA



## GAZETI

Summer 2005

### Specialty Drugs from Lilly Now at Work in the Field

A large shipment of insulin donated by Eli Lilly and Company has arrived in Eldoret – though the journey was not an easy one! Along with our Kenyan partners at Moi University, we encountered many road-blocks and obstacles along the way. According to a recent trade agreement among Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda,

Kenya customs could have required a 10% import duty to be paid on the incoming shipment. Thanks to the unwavering efforts of Professor Haroun Mengech, Director of the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret, the 6,700 vials of insulin made their way safely to Eldoret where they will be able to change the lives of so many people that desperately need it.

A second shipment of specialty drugs from Lilly contained Zyprexa and Prozac, and arrived in Kenya in mid-April. IU-Kenya Onsite Field Director Joe Mamlin had a very positive response to the delivery of these drugs. He says that for the first time in history “Kenya’s poorest patients with mental health problems will have free access to modern therapy. The impact will be immediate and huge. We will do all in our power to be faithful stewards of this



*Left: IU-Kenya Field Director Joe Mamlin with insulin shipment. Above: Prof. Haroun Mengech with Prozac and Zyprexa shipment.*



trust.” This shipment has the potential to provide these two drugs to over 2,000 patients in Eldoret and surrounding areas. Thank you to Eli Lilly and Company for their steadfast commitment to the IU-Kenya Partnership and all the people it serves in Kenya. This donation will bring the program one step closer to achieving its mission of “promoting health for the human family.”



The mission of Indiana University's partnership with Moi University College of Health Sciences is to develop leaders in health for the United States and Africa, to foster the values of the medical profession and to promote health for the human family.

The partnership was formally established in 1989 as a collaboration between Moi University Faculty of Health Sciences, Eldoret, Kenya and Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, USA. The purpose of the collaboration at its inception was to establish a mutually beneficial relationship with a focus on primary care medicine and pediatrics.

As the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS pandemic grew over the last two decades, it became apparent that the partnership would have to respond to this health care issue. In 2000, responding to the HIV/AIDS problem became one of the primary activities of Indiana University School of Medicine in Kenya.

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## Slemenda Scholars 2005

Each year, between two and four IU medical students are chosen to spend two months in the summer between their first and second year of medical school at Moi University Faculty of Health Sciences in Eldoret. The students take classes, make rounds in the hospital, live with their Kenyan student counterparts in the student hostel and spend a good deal of time in a village learning about Community Based Education and Service (COBES). In exchange, their expenses are covered by a scholarship and they receive a stipend after completing a written report about their experiences. This scholarship is named after Dr. Charles Slemenda, a former IU epidemiologist and staunch supporter of international medicine and the IU-Kenya Partnership.

This year's Slemenda Scholars are **Beth Gates**, Lebanon, IN; **David Nordin**, South Haven, MI; **Adam Paarlberg**, Crown Point, IN and **Satya Sekar**, Bluffton, IN. We wish them luck on their upcoming journey to Kenya in late June.



*Beth Gates, Adam Paarlberg, Satya Sekar and David Nordin*

## ICU Brings Leading-Edge Technology

One of the essential components of any well established hospital is an intensive care unit (ICU). Appropriately monitored patient care before and after surgery has long been the standard of care here in the US. However, there is no ICU at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital. This will soon change! Dennis Wagner M.D., an anesthesiologist at IU, has spearheaded the effort to build this much-needed facility. The six- to eight-bed facility will contain the appropriate leading-edge equipment for patient care. The hope is that this space will help improve post-surgery conditions and reduce current morbidity rates. Over \$50,000 was raised through Dennis' efforts and his request that donations be made for the ICU in lieu of wedding gifts for his recent wedding to Sarah Claytor. The funds will provide medical gas piping of oxygen, gas and suction as well as air conditioning, furniture, beds, six five-channel monitors, phones and many other essential pieces necessary to ensure the success of any intensive care unit. Construction is gearing up to finish the ICU by mid- to late summer of 2005.

## Sally Test Center Provides Child Care



The Sally Test Pediatric Center at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret already has several months of operational experience under its belt. Sarah Ellen Mamlin and her team spend every day there providing educational opportunities, care and recreational activities for both the children admitted to the hospital and children of the adults admitted to the hospital. These activities range from painting and creating art to dancing to playing with the many donated toys at the center. The smiles seen on the faces of these children are priceless, especially when they realize that this place was created for them. Thanks to Sally Test and all others who have made this dream a reality!



## Welcome

### **Rajesh Vedanthan, MD MPH, New Medical Liaison in Kenya**

Rajesh Vedanthan, MD MPH, will be following in the footsteps of Jill Helphenstine as our program's onsite medical liaison for the next year beginning July 2005. Rajesh will make a perfect match for our program in Kenya. After attaining two bachelor degrees at Swarthmore College and the University of Oxford, he began his postgraduate studies at the University of California Berkeley where he received dual Masters in Public Health and Science. Alongside these masters programs, Rajesh was also attending medical school. He graduated from UCSF School of Medicine in June of 2002, and has recently completed his residency in internal medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. Rajesh has done studies on the risk of HIV infection among women in south India.

### **Becca Atkins, New Assistant Program Manager**

Becca Atkins joined the IU-Kenya team as assistant program manager in late February. She is a 2003 graduate of the University of Vermont with a degree in Anthropology. Becca has traveled to East Africa on several occasions and visited Eldoret during her latest trip in January. Becca's commitment to working in the field of International Health, specifically with HIV/AIDS, should make her a great addition to our team.

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# Mosquito Nets to Save Lives

A recent donation from Dr. Larry Born, who spent two months in Eldoret as a resident in 1991, has made it possible to purchase approximately 1,300 insecticide-treated mosquito nets to be distributed at the AMPATH sites around Western Kenya. These nets will provide a much-needed preventative measure against malaria, a disease that threatens this nation's people day in and day out. The nets will serve as one component of our prevention package that also includes HIV prevention and clean water.

Mosquito-borne malaria is the leading cause of deaths in children five and under in Sub-Saharan Africa, and constitutes 10% of the continent's overall disease burden. Insecticide-treated mosquito nets can reduce the number of deaths in young children by an average of 20%. Larry Born's donation will go a long way in helping reduce the occurrence of malaria and the resulting deaths in this part of Western Kenya.

