

Progress Report for UNM Projects under the NIAAA-supported Consortium of International Collaborative Research

Funding commenced on September 30, 2003 for two projects at The University of New Mexico (UNM) (International Neuropsychological Study of FASD and Multi-Method Intervention Study of FASD in South Africa) under the broader NIAAA-supported Consortium of International Collaborative Research. Parts of both of these projects are being carried out in collaboration with The University of Cape Town (UCT) through a subcontract. Part of one (neuropsychological study) will be carried out with several American Indian tribes in the Northern Plains. Since the initial funding arrived, progress has been made initiating activities required to launch the two projects in the American Indian sites in the United States as well as in South Africa. This report will summarize the activities that have been completed thus far for both projects.

Because the budget period was reduced from five years to three, and due to the fact that educational interventions were added to this grant, the number of human subjects has changed. In the neuropsychological study the numbers are: 100 children with FAS and 100 controls for the South African study and 50 children with FAS and to controls in the Northern Plains. For the educational intervention 76 children with FAS and normal children are enrolled.

International Neuropsychological Study of FASD

The work scope of the New Mexico award, with a subcontract to The University of Cape Town, under the NIAAA-supported Consortium of International Collaborative Research (CIFASD), includes the neuropsychological testing of 300 children using: 1) the core test battery that is being designed by a collaborative group of neuro-behaviorists under the guidance of the CIFASD Behavioral Core and 2) tests that are designed to test a specific statistical model of neurocognitive functioning (radex model) with the aim to further define the cognitive dysfunction in alcohol-affected children.

Because of the collaborative nature of this project, parallel activities have ensued over the past year in preparation for the core testing to begin. First, the Behavioral Core group of the CIFASD has held a series of meetings to determine the battery of tests that will be administered to the children targeted by this work scope. That battery and test administration manual is in the final stages of development and is slated to be available to the sites by September 2004. It is the intent that the actual testing of the children can then begin in October 2004. Simultaneously, project staff at UNM and at UCT have worked throughout the year to initiate and finalize the following activities in preparation to begin the test administration and data collection:

- 1) IRB approval has been acquired.
- 2) Subcontracts have been finalized and administered across both universities.
- 3) Philip May, Ph.D. has requested an audience with tribal councils in American Indian sites to present the project to those communities and gain approval for the project to begin. These meetings have been completed in three of the project sites and approval has been granted.

- 4) Piyadasa Kodituwakku, Ph.D., has had continued contact with, and has attended formal meetings of the Behavior Core of the CIFASD to develop and finalize the battery to be used in this project.
- 5) Philip May, Ph.D., Piyadasa Kodituwakku, Ph.D., and Wendy Kalberg, M.A., CED, have made a site visit to South Africa to participate in strategic planning and training activities of local staff.
- 6) Colleen Adnams, M.D., in collaboration with UNM staff, has hired the following well qualified project staff:
 - a. Bernice Castle, MA. In Clinical Psychology and Registered Psychometrist
- Ms. Castle has been hired to coordinate the activities of both the Neuropsychological study as well as the Multi-Method Intervention study.
 - b. Sean September, M.A., Registered Psychometrist
- Mr. September has been hired to conduct the bulk of the testing with the children enrolled in the study.

Multi-Method Intervention Study of FASD in South Africa

The Multi-Method Intervention Study is aimed at determining the degree to which three specific intervention methods are successful in remediating the effects of prenatal alcohol-exposure in affected children. The following three intervention methods are being tested: 1) cognitive control therapy 2) family intervention, and 3) specific linguistic and literacy training. This work scope targets 76 affected children randomly assigned to one of 5 groups (three treatment groups, one alcohol-exposed control group, and one typically developing control group). The University of Cape Town is collaborating with Stellenbosch University and professionals from the target community to implement the aforementioned interventions. The South African intervention team is comprised of the following individuals:

Colleen Adnams, M.D., Co-Investigator (UCT)
Pharyn Sorour, SLP (UCT)
Mariechen Perold, M.Ed. Psych. (Univ. of Stellenbosch)
Rubin Adams, B.Ed., (Western Cape Schools)
Petra Engelbrecht, Ph.D. (University of Stellenbosch)

In March 2004, the Co-investigators (Dr. May, Dr. Kodituwakku, and Ms. Kalberg) traveled to South Africa to participate in strategic planning for the commencement of the Intervention study. In the start-up year, the South African team has met regularly to design the pretest protocol, design and finalize intervention protocols, and hire staff to drive the daily activities of the project. Bernice Castle, M.A., and Sean September, M.A. were hired to provide expertise to both the Intervention Study as well as the Neuropsychological Study.

The current progress on the intervention protocol has included recruitment of 76 children for the study. One hundred percent (100%) consent has been obtained for the 76 children identified to participate in the study. Baseline testing has begun and is complete for all but four of the children who will be participating in the study. All treatment components will commence the last week of August 2004. Linguistic interventions will be conducted two times a week for 45 minutes each session. Cognitive Control Therapy

will take place one hour per week, and the Parent Group will meet a total of 20 times over the course of the intervention time period.

The UNM team has scheduled a site visit for September 13 through September 24. Planned activities for that time include: 1) final training of the neuropsychological testing battery with the South African psychometricians, 2) meetings with South Africa project staff, and 3) observation of the treatment groups in process.