



Eddie Reed Exchange Fellowship Program

Introduction

As developing nations experience improvement in their economies and public health, their populations will age, and diseases common to developed nations, such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer will become increasingly important causes of morbidity and mortality. Cancer in particular has increased dramatically in areas such as sub-Saharan Africa, where the spread of HIV has led to a sharp increase in Kaposi's sarcoma, cervical cancer, lymphoma, and squamous carcinomas of the skin, head and neck, female reproductive tract, and anus. In order to acquire the necessary expertise to meet this cancer challenge, many of these countries, which lack modern facilities and trained medical personnel, are collaborating with academic centers in the US and Western Europe.

The Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) is working with the Botswana medical establishment and government to develop a strong partnership for patient care and a long-term cancer control plan in Botswana. The collaboration, termed BOTSOGO ("health" in Setswana), has partnered with the Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute (BHP), University of Pennsylvania, Texas Children's Hospital, and Tulane University to bring teaching faculty to Botswana, and to advise the medical school, hospitals, and Ministry of Health on next steps for cancer control. Botswana, a country of 2 million people, has a relatively wealthy economy, but only recently opened its first medical school. The country has limited medical resources to meet the challenge of approximately 2000 new cases of cancer each year, more than 60% of which are related to HIV infection. Botswana has established a strong program for HIV treatment in conjunction with BHP, which in turn closely collaborates with BOTSOGO in arranging exchanges of personnel and technology. BOTSOGO has also received support from industry, from the National Cancer Institute, and from the Paul G. Allen Foundation to bolster its efforts.

The Eddie Reed Fellowship Program

Exchange visits between Botswana, MGH and collaborating US centers, which will allow medical personnel to engage in onsite training and preceptorships, will be critical to the development of expertise for cancer control in Botswana. The proposed fellowship program will be named for Dr. Eddie Reed, a prominent US oncologist and the Clinical Director of the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Reed has had a distinguished career as a clinical oncologist, pharmacologist, and public health official. He has served as an intramural laboratory investigator at the National

Cancer Institute, the Director of the University of West Virginia Mary Randolph Cancer Center, the Director of the Division of Cancer Control at the Center for Communicable Diseases in Atlanta, the Clinical Director of the Mitchell Cancer Center of the University of South Alabama in Mobile, AL, and for the past two years in his current position at the National Institutes of Health. He has been a foremost advocate for health care for disadvantaged communities.

The Program

The objectives of the program will be to enhance the training of cancer personnel from Botswana, and the transfer of technology for cancer preventive, detection, treatment and supportive care between the MGH Cancer Center, its partner institutions in the US, and health care facilities in Botswana. In order to achieve these objectives, we propose to raise an initial fund of \$50,000, with annual contributions thereafter, to support travel, meals, and accommodations for 5-10 exchange visits of one to four weeks (exceptions will be considered) in duration between MGH and the affiliated BOTSOGO institutions, and medical care and public health facilities in Botswana. Trainees, faculty and staff of BOTSOGO and its collaborators, and nurses, physicians and trainees from Botswana Health Care institutions will be eligible for support. Applications will be accepted on a quarterly basis, and will be prioritized for support by the executive committee of BOTSOGO. All exchange visits will be coordinated by BOTSOGO , BHP, and their collaborators in the US and Botswana. Applications must be supported by endorsement of both the Botswana and US sponsoring institution and department.