

Tanzania Zonal Lab Partners Learn New HIV Diagnostic Techniques during Boulder Exchange

Boulder Community Hospital hosted partners from five clinical sites in Tanzania and their affiliated laboratories for a professional exchange Dec. 1-15, 2006.

Tanzanian experts from Muhimbili Hospital in Dar es Salaam, Bugando Hospital in Mwanza, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center in Moshi, Ikonda Mission Hospital in Iringa, and Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Zanzibar were given a first-hand look at HIV/AIDS lab operations carried out in state-of-the-art facilities in Boulder and Denver.

With funding from PEPFAR and programmatic support from the Twinning Center, partners are collaborating to build laboratory capacity in Tanzania through mentoring and peer-to-peer collaboration.

Key partnership objectives include improving the quality and scope of training on the use of automated laboratory equipment and rapid HIV testing procedures and facilitating implementation of sound laboratory policies, guidelines, and standards.



Professor Noel E. Sam of Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College and Father Dutto Angelo of Ikonda Mission Hospital observe medical technologist Kim Blain's work in the molecular lab at Boulder Community Hospital.



Medical Technologist Deb Spiers demonstrates a para-thyroid analyzer to Mwanaisha H. Jumbe of the Zanzibar College of Health Sciences School of Medical Laboratories during a tour of the University of Colorado Hospital.

To that end, the exchange featured a series of site visits that included Boulder Community Hospital's molecular biology lab, the Colorado Department of Public Health's micro-biology lab, the Laboratories at Bonfils, and Health One School of Medical Technology.

Partners attended lectures and briefings on various lab diagnostics used to track and monitor HIV and AIDS cases. They also learned about professional training and continuing education opportunities available for medical technology specialists.

The remainder of the exchange was devoted to work plan development, a comprehensive process that charts a course for the work the partners will do together in the coming year to help strengthen

Tanzania's ability to provide much-needed care and treatment to some 1.4 million citizens living with HIV/AIDS.

Professional exchanges such as this one go a long way toward fostering the strong relationships that form the backbone of any twinning partnership, while at the same time giving individuals on both sides a clear picture of both the possibilities and the limitations of what can be realistically accomplished.