

Tanzania Preceptors Program Gets Under Way, VHC Sends First Volunteers to Work with Care and Treatment Partners in Mbeya

The HIV/AIDS Twinning Center recently deployed its first two volunteers under the Tanzania Preceptors Program.

Dr. James D. Scott and Deborah E. Roseman arrived in Tanzania May 22 to begin their work at Mbeya Referral Hospital in Mbeya, a region of the country that is among those hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic.

Mbeya Referral Hospital—one of five zonal hospitals in Tanzania—has been working with the US Military HIV Research Program through its PEPFAR-funded Walter Reed Program since 2004. Located in Tanzania's Southern Highlands, the hospital provides training, coordinates and oversees the quality of treatment, and establishes health service referral systems throughout the Mbeya, Iringa, Rukwa, and Ruvuma regions, which are home to more than 6 million people.

Scott, a clinical pharmacologist specializing in infectious diseases and HIV/AIDS, is an assistant professor of pharmacy practice at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, California. He is helping the zonal pharmacist in Mbeya design an ARV resistance monitoring system and develop a system that can facilitate more effective management of patients on ART and pre-ART care.

Scott is also collaborating with local partners to design a methodology for generating information about which models of treatment delivery are successful in treating the largest number of patients at the lowest cost. In addition, he is helping to initiate collaboration among pharmacists at regional, district, and institutional levels, design training options for paraprofessionals, and develop refresher training for pharmacists across the zone.

Roseman, an MPH candidate at Yale University, has more than 12 years of experience developing and implementing community-based HIV/AIDS programs. As the lead health planner for HIV care and treatment services at the HIV, AIDS, and Hepatitis Branch of the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency, she coordinated community planning for Ryan White CARE Act Title I and II funds. She also managed the San Diego HIV Health Services Planning Council and supervised center staff out-stationed at the HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch.



James D. Scott and Deborah E. Roseman are the first Volunteer Healthcare Corps (VHC) recruits placed through the Twinning Center's Tanzania Preceptors Program.

Roseman is helping Walter Reed Program staff develop a strategic plan to provide a road map for the next three years, including preparation of Country Operating Plan narratives, as well as identifying the human resource and institutional capacity needs of Walter Reed grantees.

The newly launched Preceptors Program facilitates the placement of skilled volunteers at PEPFAR-supported sites to help build local capacity to provide HIV and AIDS care and treatment in Tanzania.