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PRESS RELEASE

Livingstone General Hospital Opens Learning Resource Center

Improved Access to Evidence-based Resources Will Help Improve Clinical Care and Patient Outcomes Thanks to PEPFAR Support

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA September 9, 2011 — The American International Health Alliance (AIHA) celebrated the opening of a Learning Resource Center (LRC) and establishment of an Evidence-based Practice Team at Livingstone General Hospital on August 31 to support implementation of improved clinical practices throughout all departments in the institution. Livingstone General has been engaged in an HIV/AIDS Twinning Center pharmacy partnership with the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka and the Milwaukee-based Center for International Health since 2006. This partnership is supported by the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Zambia.

Dr. Lawrence Marum, CDC Country Director for Zambia; Mrs. Gladys Kristafor, Permanent Secretary for Zambia's Southern Province; Dr. Lutangu Alisheke, Provincial Medical Officer; Dr. High Monze, Livingstone General Hospital Director; Dr. Francis Hadunka, Kazungula Hospital Director; Dr. Chris Hara, Livingstone District Health Management Director; and Mrs. Anne Mungomba, Provincial Pharmacist, attended the official opening ceremony. Other distinguished participants included key clinical staff from Livingstone General Hospital: Dr. Muzaza Ntele, Head of Clinical Care; Dr. Robert Fubisha, Head of the Pediatric HIV/AIDS Center of Excellence; Dr. Isaiah Hansingo, Head of Gynecology and Obstetrics; and Dr. Kenneth Kapembwa, Head of Internal Medicine and Evidence-based Practice Team Leader.

Partners have been working to improve ART and related care for children living with HIV by training pharmacists at the Pediatric HIV/AIDS Centers of Excellence located at both Zambian partner institutions. Two key objectives of the partnership have been to better integrate pharmacists into HIV care teams and to build local capacity to implement ongoing professional development and training opportunities in clinical pharmacy. This LRC will support the work of the partnership by improving access to evidence-based knowledge resources available online, on CD-ROM, or hard copy. It will also help users to better assess existing practices and policies, which can have a significant impact of quality of care and rational use of scarce resources.

With PEPFAR support, AIHA has established a total of 11 LRCs in Zambia — eight in Zambian Defense Force facilities throughout the country, one at the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka, one at the Palliative Care Association of Zambia in Lusaka, and this one at Livingstone General Hospital in Livingstone.

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