

UNC Center for AIDS Research Newsletter

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



The mission of the UNC CFAR is to provide a multidisciplinary environment that promotes basic, clinical, behavioral and translational research in the prevention, detection and treatment of HIV infection.

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New Adventures at the CODE Office

This month, we have some big news! Vanessa White, manager and miracle-worker at the CODE office for the past 6 years, is starting dental school at UNC in the fall. We will miss her dearly, and are so grateful for her vision and community engagement. She has expanded our capacity as a research center to make information about HIV/AIDS accessible to all. In this issue of our newsletter, we introduce Madison Hayes, the incoming Executive Director of the Office of Community Outreach, Dissemination, and Education (CODE) at the UNC Center for AIDS Research. A Chapel-Hill native, Madison comes from a background of social and behavioral research in HIV, international work in community capacity building, and empowerment-based community activism.

Madison spent four years working with an international humanitarian NGO focused on HIV/AIDS and the orphan crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa. After receiving a grant from UNC-Asheville, Madison worked with a women's empowerment collective in South

America, and continued her international work in Central America. After returning to the United States, Madison began facilitating social and behavioral research, specifically testing interventions for formerly incarcerated women, examining the structural, social, and behavioral factors influencing the transmission of HIV and STIs.

Madison explained that her "work in social distribution and sociocultural determinants of HIV, health care access, and community empowerment" laid the path for her position with the CODE Office. She advocates for "community engagement in setting the CFAR research agenda, and in disseminating research findings back in to the community in creative, engaging, and culturally-appropriate ways". She believes that by "increasing the visibility of the research and academic sectors in the community", we further the capacity to shift "the power dynamics of research" and facilitate mutually beneficial relationships between community members and researchers based on respect and trust.

When asked about her future goals for the office, Madison explained that she "aims to expand our collaborative efforts with local clinics, health departments, non-profit organizations, student groups, and agencies doing ground-level prevention and empowerment work", and she hopes to build supportive relationships with "vulnerable and underserved communities".

Madison hopes to serve as a conduit between the research sector and the community by fostering a "community participatory approach" to enhance community health and well-being. She also aims for the CODE Office to "serve as a think tank for students who are interested in social entrepreneurship in HIV/AIDS".



Madison working at a women's collective and meal kitchen in Argentina

In addition to her position with the UNC Center for AIDS Research's CODE Office, Madison speaks Spanish, co-directs the Refugee Community Partnership and serves on the founding board of Mutual Aid, a social justice organization. She lives in Carrboro and is so excited to join our team. Madison, we are so grateful to have you on board, and we look forward to seeing great things from you in the future!

"We want to expand our collaborative efforts to support groups doing ground-level prevention and empowerment work"



About the Myths

Below you'll find all of the myths we have currently answered! Click on one to find out more!



HIV is airborne at close range.

Find out!



You can get HIV from a toilet seat.

Find out!



If you are stuck with a needle used by an HIV+ individual, you will get HIV.

Find out!



You can get HIV from Saliva.

Find out!



You can get HIV by kissing someone

Find out!



You can get HIV by performing oral sex on a man.

Find out!

Myths and debunking responses are available on the HIV MythBusters website

HIV Myth Busters is a new project and initiative launched by UNC CFAR's Community Outreach, Dissemination, and Education office. After almost a year of collecting HIV myths from the community, the

CODE office has launched the first part of it's initiative, the HIV Myth Buster's website. The website provides an interactive gallery of HIV Myths in which our panel of some of UNC's top HIV specialists give the hard facts about these myths in order to reduce the stigma that surrounds them and end the spread of these myths. The website also allows for both anonymous and email submission of myths that will allow us to continue collecting and busting myths! Future components of this project include providing slideshows of the myths and answers to clinics, distribution of brochures and pamphlets providing some of the most common myths, and more interactive features on our website.

Visit the website today at:

<http://hivmythbusters.unc.edu>

NEW MEDIA NEWS



Join our facebook community to learn more about HIV- related news and events in the triangle:

<http://www.facebook.com/UNCCCFAR>

We are pinning now!! Join us at
<http://pinterest.com/uncccfar>



Come follow us on twitter for easy updates and news at:

<http://twitter.com/#!/uncccfar>

- UNC CFAR Website: <http://cfar.med.unc.edu/>
- Ronald Swanstrom PI - riscunc@med.unc.edu
- CODE Office Contacts: Dr. Ron Strauss (ron_strauss@unc.edu) & Madison Hayes (madisonh@email.unc.edu)
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Myth: A mother can't transmit HIV to their child.

Response:

If the mother is HIV positive, she can transmit HIV to her child through pregnancy, labor, delivery or breastfeeding. The risk of transmission from mother to child in women who are not treating their HIV infection with antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) is roughly 15-45% which is cut drastically to 5% in women that are on ARV treatment.

An example of an HIV-related myth response on the site.
Soon to come – video responses to myths from CFAR doctors!