



PRESS RELEASE

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Twinning Center Launches New Partnership to Strengthen Health System Capacity in South Africa

PEPFAR-funded Program will build capacity to support training of mid-level medical professionals at the University of Witwatersrand

WASHINGTON, DC, June 10, 2010 — The American International Health Alliance (AIHA) is pleased to announce the formation of a new partnership in South Africa that will support the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) by increasing human resources for health.

Established with support from CDC/South Africa and in close cooperation with the South Africa National Department of Health, this HIV/AIDS Twinning Center partnership links the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg with Emory University School of Medicine's Physician Assistant Program in Atlanta. Partners will work together to strengthen Witwatersrand's Clinical Associates Program, which was launched under the Faculty of Health Sciences and Centre for Rural Health in 2008.

The partnership will focus on building the capacity of faculty and clinical supervisors to train students in the Clinical Associates Program at Witwatersrand in the provision of quality medical care — including ART and treatment for opportunistic infections — to people living with HIV or AIDS in rural areas in South Africa. Students complete their clinical training in rural areas of South Africa's Northwestern Province, where many of them will serve after completion of the three-year program. This is the Twinning Center's sixth partnership in South Africa and the second established this year to bolster the capacity of local universities to train clinical associates.

Emory University School of Medicine has a strong history of providing care to medically underserved areas through required rotations in rural areas of Georgia and service-learning programs in resource-challenged clinics outside of Atlanta. Their wealth of knowledge and experience in educating mid-level medical professionals through the Physician Assistant Program will play a critical role in strengthening the Clinical Associates Program at the University of Witwatersrand.

Funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration, the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center mobilizes and coordinates the resources of US healthcare providers to effectively build capacity to reduce HIV infection rates and provide care to those infected with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS in countries targeted for PEPFAR assistance.

For more information on the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center, visit www.TwinningAgainstAIDS.org.
For more information about AIHA, visit our Web site at www.aiha.com.

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