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RF91079  
A31

LM	FK
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GRANT NUMBER: RF 91079, #31

PROGRAM: HS/PS

COMPONENT: Family and Community-Based Health Care Initiatives

AMOUNT UP TO: \$350,000 (\$175,000; \$175,000)  
IN ADDITION TO  
NUMBER:  
AMOUNT:

GRANTEE  
PRIMARY: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
AFFILIATION:  
CITY/STATE/COUNTRY: New York, New York

SECONDARY:  
AFFILIATION:  
CITY/STATE/COUNTRY:

ADMINISTERED BY:

PURPOSE: to support HIV epidemiology and prevention research in  
Rakai District, Uganda

BEGINNING DATE: January 1, 1992

TERMINATION DATE: December 31, 1993

APPROVAL DATE: March 25, 1992

Expenditure Responsibility: Yes  
No x Charles J. Lang

Certification of Availability of Funds: \_\_\_\_\_

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**FROM:** SFB  
**TO:** KP  
**DATE:** March 16, 1992

**SUBJECT:** ALLOCATION OF \$350,000 - from RF 91079 to Columbia University to support HIV epidemiology and prevention research in Rakai District, Uganda

**COMPONENT:** Family and Community-based Health Initiatives

**BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION:** At the Board of Trustees meeting on December 10, 1991, RF 91079 for \$1,500,000, in addition to RF 90080, was appropriated for allocation by the officers to help developing countries improve their national research and private-sector capabilities for controlling the spread of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection; the combined sums to be available for allocation during the period ending December 31, 1992.

A grant from the Foundation (RF 88076, #2 for \$450,000), supplemented by funds from the United States Agency for International Development and the National Institutes of Health has permitted Columbia University's Center for Population and Family Health to assist Ugandan investigators to develop a long term cohort study in Rakai, a rural district in Uganda. The purpose of the study is to determine HIV prevalence, incidence and patterns of transmission in a rural population; to assess the natural history of HIV in a rural setting; to assess demographic effects of the epidemic on the population and to implement and evaluate preventative strategies. The cohort consists of adults, infants and children residing in 31 randomly selected villages comprising 6,680 individuals. Serologic results demonstrated adult HIV infection rates in the cohort of 17% in males and 24% in females. These can be used to estimate a 14% overall infection rate in adults over 13 years of age in Rakai.

The Rakai Project is one of the most extensive programs of health education, counselling and condom distribution in Africa and is one of only two prospective general population cohorts. It has trained and placed community health community workers in all 31 study villages, and established HIV counselling sites in 8 communities. In addition, peer counselling, health education and condom promotion are provided through community rallies. However, use of condoms and requests to learn one's serological status remain relatively low. Perhaps most disturbing is the fact that despite almost universal knowledge about the routes of spread of HIV, incidence rates remain high (2.6% per annum). The Rakai Project has been singled out by the Ugandan Director of Medical Services as providing a prototype for future Ugandan Ministry of Health Programs. The second phase of the project will continue the epidemiological/demographic studies and include an expansion of STD research and services. This cohort is well placed to test new vaccines as they become available.

This two-year allocation of \$350,000 will be used for salaries, consultants, supplies, communications, computer services, travel, accommodation, conference registrations, purchase of vehicles and refurbishment of the STD clinic.

**Initiating Officer:**

**HS Director's Approval:**

**PS Director's Approval:**

**Vice President's Approval:**

Document Name: Rakai.pg