

# **Reproductive Health Interest Group**

General Body Meeting

October 4, 2005

## **I. Welcome and Overview of RHIG (Robin and Bitia)**

Robin and Bitia welcomed the large turnout and gave a recap of last year's activities, along with an overview of the recommendations that were made for this year, including advocacy projects and more off campus activities. They also gave a brief history of RHIG for the new members.

## **II. Voter Registration Activity**

Voter registration ballots were passed out to people who needed to register/re-register. The address for online voter registration was put on the board and everyone was reminded that the deadline to register in time for the November 8 election is October 25<sup>th</sup>. We briefly discussed the importance of voting against Prop 73.

## **III. Overview of Bixby Program (Dr. Paula Tavrow)**

Dr. Tavrow discussed funding opportunities for SPH students through the Bixby program and gave an overview of the three main areas of the Bixby program that can be utilized to RHIG members:

1. Training
  - a. International Internships
  - b. Lecture series with public health practitioners (The first lecture of the quarter will be on reproductive health in refugee populations, on October 18)
  - c. Building up course offerings in reproductive health (e.g. the Reproductive Health Advocacy course in the spring), Bixby certificate in Population and Reproductive Health
2. Research
  - a. Funding for some doctoral students
  - b. Mentorship program for MPH students- agreement/contract for 2 quarters between student and faculty member (8-10 hours and one meeting per week)
3. Service
  - a. advocacy days in DC and Sacramento sponsored by Bixby

The students were referred to the Bixby website, <http://bixbyprogram.ph.ucla.edu> for more information.

## **IV. Introduction of Officers and Overview of Committees**

The officers gathered in the front of the room to introduce themselves and give a brief explanation of the role that each committee plays and the activities that they are involved in.

1. **Speakers Committee** (Leah) - The goal of this committee is to try to schedule speakers that correlate with RHIG's themes and activities. They are currently planning an event featuring Tara Nasoc, who started an NGO working with midwives in Afghanistan. Anyone with ideas for future speakers is encouraged to contact Leah or Tanya.
2. **Fundraising Committee** (Galina) - The first priority is to raise money to fund speakers, presentations, and events for the upcoming year. Last year we focused mainly on bagel sales, but we are looking to branch out this year. We would also like to be able to contribute to a service project, perhaps focusing on AIDS in Africa (last year money was sent to help fund a project working with the blind in Africa).
3. **On-Campus** (Andy and Cara Mae) - One major achievement last year was the development of the Bixby certificate. This year we will be working on a testicular cancer awareness campaign, the distribution of Oh \$#! Cards in the Ashe Center, and inquiring about the methods of Chlamydia testing for women in the Ashe Center. Another major focus for fall quarter will be raising awareness about prop 73 on campus.
4. **Off-Campus** (Bettsy) - Fall quarter efforts will be focused on assisting the No On Prop 73 campaign through activities like spokesperson training and phone banking. Suggestions for Winter and Spring projects are welcomed.

#### V. **Overview of Prop 73 (Robin and Bitia)**

A brief explanation of California's election process was given for non-residents who were unfamiliar with the proposition system. This was followed by an overview of Prop 73 and its consequences for California should it pass in the upcoming election. RHIG will concentrate much of its fall quarter efforts on helping to defeat this proposition. Some ideas for getting involved include scheduling an interdisciplinary panel on Prop 73 on campus, phone banking with PPLA, posting flyers in dorms, speaking to students and professors before classes, collaborating with other on-campus groups with similar interests (e.g. Public Policy, Nursing, Social Work students), and launching a "Get Out the Vote" campaign. Members were encouraged to visit [www.noprop73.com](http://www.noprop73.com) for more information about the Campaign for Teen Safety.

A RHIG meeting on Prop 73 will be held on Wed, 10/12 at 5pm in CHS 41-268.

#### VI. **Brainstorming Activities for RHIG this year**

Suggestions for the coming year included:

- Work with the UCLA mobile clinic
- Continuing to focus on safer sex for sex workers (started at the end of last year)
- Cervical cancer prevention (especially for women of color in LA)
- Outreach to other departments
- Writing Daily Bruin Editorials or emails to the undergraduate campus
- Fundraising with Andy's band, Bixby