

**Reproductive Health Interest Group
General Body Meeting
November 16, 2006**

I. Obstetric Fistula Movie

II. Discuss Donating Money to Obstetric Fistula Organizations

Sonya and Sharie, the Fundraising Committee Chairs, contacted Dr. Leo Lagasse at the UCLA School of Medicine about possibly donating money to his organization, Medicine for Humanity. He runs the only freestanding women's clinic in Africa, which is in Nairobi. RHIG could donate money to this or another project of his to fund DNA sample testing for charged rapists, which could lead to their conviction. There are 400 samples waiting to be tested. It would be helpful to know the cost of testing each one, so that RHIG would know exactly what impact our donation would have. The question of sending medical supplies was also raised.

RHIG t-shirts will soon be available for sale. They will be light blue with hot pink writing that says, "Love Carefully." The fundraising committee will be making a fact sheet about fistula to hand out when selling them, if we use the money for that campaign. Members approved using \$520 of our \$634 to purchase the t-shirts.

Medicine for Humanity could also be a potential internship site.

III. RHIG Superstars

Sonya Trinh, Sharie Cheng, Miriam Boxerman, Michelle Doose, Anya Gutman, Emily Falk were acknowledged for their contributions, especially with Prop. 85 projects/bagel sales.

IV. Introductions

V. Prop. 85 Recap

- Anya organized four RHIG members to talk to 6 sororities with approximately 50 women in each about Prop. 85 and its implications before the election.
- Miriam organized a group to canvas door-to-door with Planned Parenthood in the valley. They were given a targeted list of female voters to contact, and it was sometimes challenging to find the person.
- Nancy Irwin from Planned Parenthood Los Angeles gave a lunchtime talk at the School of Public Health with a basic overview of the issue. Approximately 25 people attended. The talk was rather brief, but it did facilitate discussion.

VI. Adult Film Industry Think Tank

Julia gave a summary of the AFI Think Tank that was held at UCLA on October 27, and other RHIG members who attended spoke about the importance of this issue. There are several competing interests on the issue that must be balanced while deciding how to achieve optimal worker protections. About ten ideas for dealing with the issue were proposed at the Think Tank, ranging from educating performers to developing a film rating system for the industry based on safety to legislating condom use. Key members from the Think Tank have divided into four working groups, and RHIG members are invited to participate in each

group. The groups are: (1) legislation, regulation, and advocacy; (2) research; (3) performers rights and education; (4) public awareness and information. This project has something for everyone, as it includes pursuing diverse topics such as video post-production techniques, drafting legislation, consumer opinion surveys, and workers' rights. RHIG members might lobby for this in Sacramento for lobby day, and there is the possibility of an internship with AIM, the Adult Industry Medical Health Care Foundation.

VII. Update from the Bixby Program

Dr. Tavrow announced that Bixby mentorships are now available for master's students who would like to get involved with research. Students should write a scope of work with a UCLA faculty member, preferably for winter and spring quarters. The deadline for proposals is December 5, and decisions will be announced within two weeks of then. She also described the Bixby certificate and reminded first-year students to choose a core project and an internship in reproductive health. Internships will be further discussed in January. The Bixby Program will be hosting a major event next year on Reproductive Health and Human Rights, similar to this year's theme of the American Public Health Association.

VIII. New Committees

Kristen, Miriam, and Anya are organizing new committees to work on access to reproductive health care at the Ashe center, as well as education and awareness. They will divide into two working groups. The research group will choose topics, such as availability and cost of emergency contraception, and assess what is currently happening at Ashe. The presentation group will prepare health education talks for undergrads, incorporating the research findings.

IX. Speaker Committee

The speaker committee had the following ideas for future speaker topics:

- Where we are politically with reproductive health in the US
- Initiation into gangs by transmitting STDs

Other ideas that were generated during the course of the meeting include:

- Inviting Dr. Lagasse to speak about fistula, along with an African woman
- Inviting Dr. Angela Chen to talk at a RHIG meeting about UCLA abortion and reproductive health services
- Hosting a panel on rape, including male rape, prison rape, gang rape
- Including sex trafficking in the human rights talks
- Holding an event with speakers on the AFI issue in order to raise awareness

X. Future RHIG positions

In January, several positions for first-year representatives or co-chairs will be available, as well as potential officer positions to replace second-year students who will graduate early.