Welcoming Remarks and Meeting Goals

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Why are we concerned about NeuroAIDS?

• In the developed world prior to the introduction of HAART, HIV-associated dementia and sensory neuropathies was a major cause of morbidity and mortality; As high as 30% of individuals developed neurological complications

• With the introduction of HAART the incidence of HIV-associated dementia has dropped to around 5%
Why is there a need to study NeuroAIDS in the developing world

- A significant proportion of HIV infected individuals now reside in the developing world
- UNAIDS and WHO estimates at end of 2006
  - 40 million HIV infections worldwide
  - 25 million in Sub-Saharan Africa
  - 8 million in South and South-east Asia
NeuroAIDS in Developing World

• Since a significant number of HIV infected individuals reside in the developing world there is a critical need to collect data on the epidemiology, natural history and pathogenesis of HIV-associated neurological disease in these regions
Major Goals of the Meeting

• Highlight current knowledge relating to
  – HIV-associated neurological and neuropsychiatric complications in Asia and the Pacific Rim (Adults and Children)
  – Neurological complications resulting from HIV-associated Co-infections and Opportunistic infections in Asia and the Pacific Rim
Major Goals of Meeting – contd.

- Identify capacity and training needs in the region to facilitate NeuroAIDS research
- Develop strategies for collaboration between NeuroAIDS researchers and ongoing projects in region such as INSIGHT network or SEARCH Consortium or ACTG 5199 and others
- Develop collaborations for NeuroAIDS research between US/Australian researchers and Asia and Pacific Rim region scientists
- Share information on NIH funding opportunities with Asia and Pacific Rim region scientists
National Institute of Mental Health

• The NIMH mission is to reduce the burden of mental illness and behavioral disorders through research on mind, brain and behavior

• In FY 2006 NIMH budget was approximately $1.4 billion for research
  – $180 million was earmarked for AIDS related research
Co-sponsored Meetings & Workshops

• Assessment of Neuro-AIDS in Africa, Malawi, June 10-12, 2004
• NeuroAIDS Symposium, Bangalore, India, August 1-8, 2004
• NeuroAIDS session, Bucharest, Romania, October 14-16, 2004
• HIV Infection and the CNS, Frascati, Italy, June 11-13, 2005
• NeuroAIDS in Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 28, 2005
Co-sponsored Meetings & Workshops – contd.

• Assessment of Resources and Opportunities for NeuroAIDS Research in Nigeria and West and Central Africa, Abuja, Nigeria, June 2006

• Assessment of NeuroAIDS in Africa II, Tanzania, July 2006

• 2nd Conference on HIV Infection of the Nervous System, Venice, Italy, April 2007
Discussion Themes

• Current knowledge of Neurologic and Neuropsychiatric complications of HIV and associated Opportunistic and Co-Infections in Asia and the Pacific Rim (Pediatric and Adult Populations)

• Impact of ARV rollout of CNS complications of HIV infection
Discussion Themes – contd.

- Capacity building needs in Asia and the Pacific Rim for assessment of neurological and neuropsychiatric complications of HIV infection
- Approaches to gather normative data for neuropsychological assessments
- Training needs in the region to build staffing for NeuroAIDS research
Discussion Themes – contd.

• Opportunities for collaboration with ongoing projects in Asia and Pacific Rim such as those carried out by INSIGHT network/SEARCH Consortium/ACTG 5199 and others

• Lessons learned from International NeuroAIDS Research at other resource poor settings that can be applied to Asia and the Pacific Rim
Discussion Themes – contd.

• Local Government policy issues that may impact on collaborations with US (e.g. shipment of samples)
• Ethical considerations and IRB issues
Discussion Themes – contd.

- Opportunities for Research in Asia and Pacific Rim relating to
  - HIV clade diversity and neuropathogenesis
  - Host genetic factors regulating susceptibility to HIV-associated neurologic disease