

Grant Title: BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES TRAINING IN DRUG ABUSE RESEARCH

Institution: National Development and Research Institutes, Inc. (NDRI)

Grant Number: 5T32DA007233-28

Type: (Supplement, etc.): Research Training Grant

NIH Statement: “The National Institutes of Health did not fund or approve the research described in the paper. This study was funded by the Hunter College Center for HIV/AIDS Educational Studies and Training. Dr. Christian Grov was supported as a postdoctoral research fellow at the time the research was conducted by a National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)-funded training grant, which focuses on preparing behavioral scientists, especially racial/ethnic minorities, to conduct research in the areas of drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, and crime. These funds can only be used to support expenses like stipends, tuition and fees. These funds cannot be used to support research projects.”

Description of the Research:

- NIH did not fund the research described in the paper “The Association between Penis Size and Sexual Health among Men Who Have Sex with Men.” This study was supported by the Hunter College Center for HIV/AIDS Educational Studies and Training.
- The first author of this paper, Dr. Christian Grov, was supported as a postdoctoral research fellow at the time this research was conducted by a National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)-funded training grant, which focuses on preparing behavioral scientists, especially racial/ethnic minorities, to conduct research in the areas of drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, and crime. The NIDA grant was awarded to the National Development and Research Institutes Inc. (NDRI).
- These funds can only be used to support expenses like stipends, tuition and fees. These funds cannot be used to support research projects.
- The total cost of the training grant which supported more than a dozen pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellows during the two years Dr. Grov received training (2006-2007) was ~1.8M; Dr. Grov received ~\$58,000 during this period.

Scientific Justification for HIV/AIDS research:

- The HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to devastate the United States, with an estimated 1 million people living with HIV/AIDS and approximately 56,000 new HIV infections occurring annually over the course of the past decade. The persistence of this rate indicates that much remains to be done to improve the effectiveness of HIV prevention.
- Although only a small percentage of American men report having sex with other men, this group accounts for nearly half of all people in the United States living with HIV and more than half of all new HIV infections in this country each year. It is noteworthy that some men who have sex with men also have sex with women, meaning an HIV-infected man in this population could also spread the virus to a heterosexual woman.
- For diseases such as HIV/AIDS, which is spread through sexual and drug-using behaviors and for which no vaccine is yet available, preventing risk behaviors is our best hope for containing the spread of this epidemic.
- The development of effective interventions for HIV/AIDS prevention depends on a scientific foundation of biomedical research as well as behavioral research that identifies the psychological, social and cultural causes of risk-taking behaviors and the mechanisms that facilitate behavioral change.
- Strategic Justification (strategic plan or other public document where topic area has been described as a priority)
- This training grant went through the NIH two-tier review process which includes:
 - Scientific and technical review
 - Consideration by an Advisory Council that includes public representatives. The Council makes recommendations based on alignment of the application with the research priorities of the NIH Institute/Center