



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **New HIV/AIDS Twinning Center Partnership in South Africa Is Helping to Integrate HIV/AIDS and TB Services**

**Program is strengthening epidemiological monitoring and reporting capacity to better inform health policy decisions, improve clinical services for PLWH**

**WASHINGTON, DC, and PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA, February 13, 2008**—The American International Health Alliance (AIHA) has established a new partnership through its HIV/AIDS Twinning Center Program that is supporting the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief by building institutional and human resource capacity to research, track, and report on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis co-morbidities in South Africa's Free State Province.

The Centre for Health Systems Research and Development at the University of the Free State (UFS) in Bloemfontein is partnering with State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn to strengthen the Centre's research and data management capabilities with the objective of informing health policy decisions related to the integration of HIV/AIDS and TB services in Free State Province.

The partners launched their work in earnest during a professional exchange conducted Jan. 28- Feb. 1 at UFS's Bloemfontein campus.

"Given their extensive experience in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as their very active work with marginalized populations in New York, SUNY Downstate Medical Center undoubtedly has much to contribute towards enhancing our capacity to effectively inform and advise endeavors toward improved and integrated TB and HIV control in South Africa." Dr. Christo Heunis, PhD., Senior Researcher, Center for Health Systems Research and Development, University of the Free State

Funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center mobilizes and coordinates the resources of US healthcare providers to effectively build capacity to reduce HIV infection rates and provide care to those infected with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS in the Emergency Plan's 15 focus countries in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean.

For more information on the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center, visit [www.TwinningAgainstAIDS.org](http://www.TwinningAgainstAIDS.org).

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