

**THE PRECLERKSHIP HIV
ELECTIVE:
CONTINUING TO ADDRESS
GAPS IN HEALTH CARE
EDUCATION OF MEDICAL
STUDENTS**

**Zenita Alidina, Rebecca Hicks, Madiha Naseem,
Lina Roa, Nirojini Sivachandran, Hunter
(Linyuan) Wang**

Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- Funded by OHTN



ABOUT THE ELECTIVE

- Founded by medical students in 2008-2009
- Student-run elective which provides second-year medical students with the opportunity to learn more about people living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs)
- **GOAL:** respond to the need for better medical education in the field of HIV by introducing students to the multidisciplinary aspects of HIV care and the spectrum of determinants of health affecting people living with HIV in Canada and globally



BACKGROUND

- In developed nations, HIV infection has become a chronic illness due to advancement in medical treatment that has successfully reduced HIV mortality
- Physicians no longer monitor/treat a single illness but they manage a complex spectrum of co-morbidities along with a variety of social challenges

Training in HIV care, however, is often inadequate



BACKGROUND

- Curtis et al. (1994): residents and physicians lack proper identification of HIV risk behaviours
- Beckwith et al. (2003): most medical students do not receive training in HIV testing but believe that it should be a part of the curriculum
- The National Aids Trust in the UK reports that 50% of early-stage HIV infections are being missed by physicians (BBC News, 2008)
- Estcourt et al. (2009): less than 45% of medical students felt that they could conduct an appropriate HIV pre-test discussion and less than 60% could recognize clinical indicators of HIV

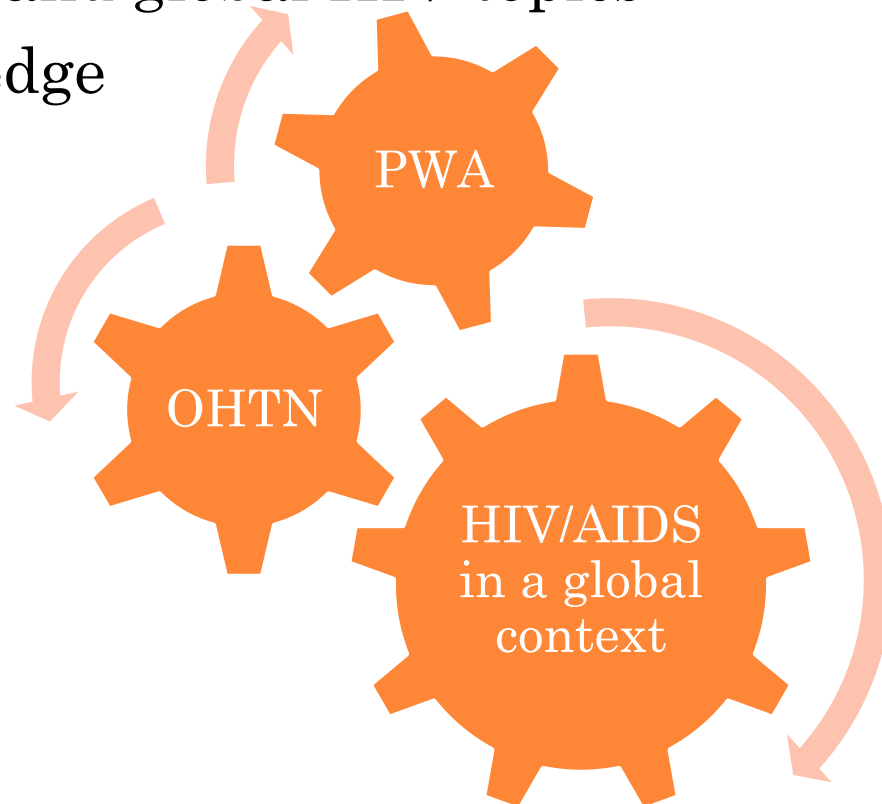


DEVELOPMENT OF THE ELECTIVE



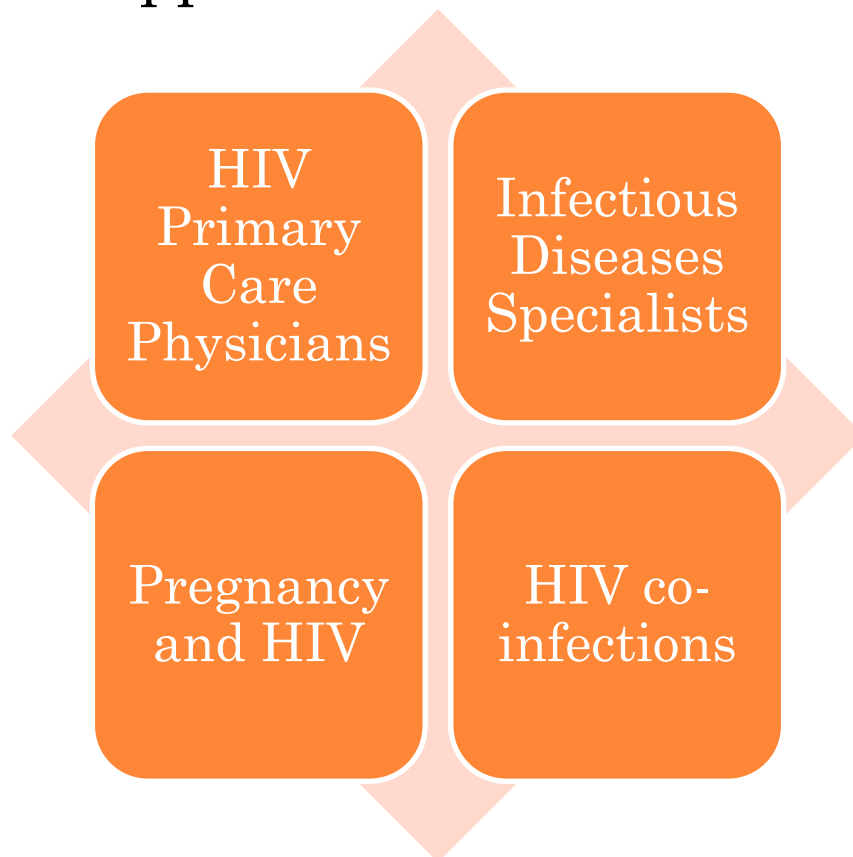
ELECTIVE OVERVIEW: SEMINARS

- 40 students
- 5-6 interactive seminars on biomedical, psychosocial, and global HIV topics
- **Goal:** knowledge



ELECTIVE OVERVIEW: PHYSICIAN OBSERVERSHIPS

- Mandatory half-day observerships with clinical preceptors involved in HIV care.
- **Goal:** career opportunities



ELECTIVE OVERVIEW: COMMUNITY AGENCIES

- Students matched to a community agency providing services for PHAs
- Minimum of one half-day learning about the agency's services and mandate
- **Goal:** non-medical aspects of HIV



AIDS Bereavement and Resiliency
Program of Ontario

Presence. Compassion. Change.



WOMEN'S HEALTH
IN WOMEN'S HANDS
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE
INCREASE • INNOVATE • IGNITE



act

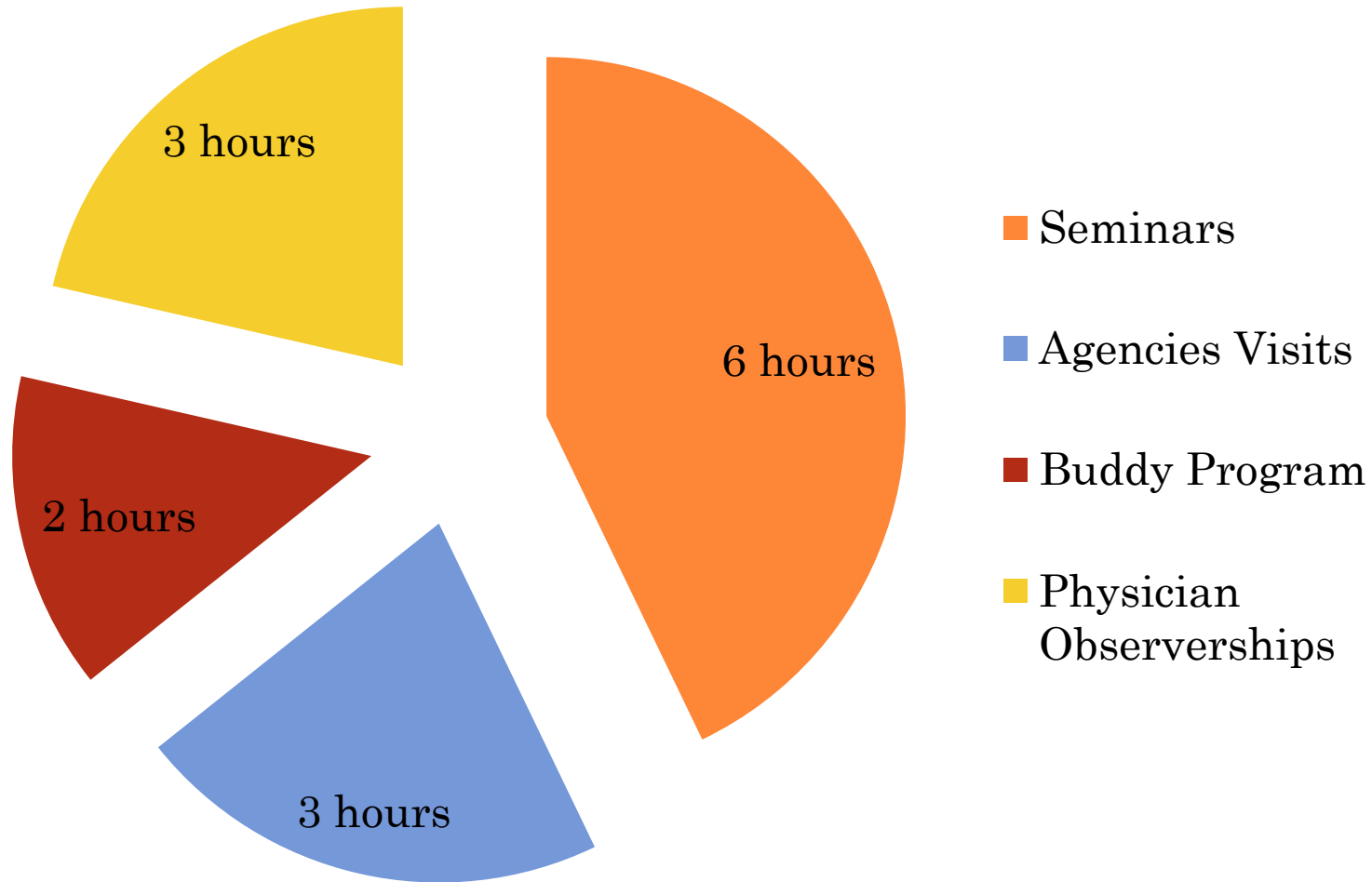


ELECTIVE OVERVIEW: BUDDY PROGRAM

- Organized in partnership with the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation (PWA)
- Two dinners hosted with PWA
- Medical students are paired with a PWA client to talk about their lived experience
- **Goal:** Develop a deeper understanding of the challenges of living with HIV/AIDS



TIME DISTRIBUTION



PROGRAM EVALUATION

- Chew et al. 2012
- Positive feedback

- Self-assessment prior to starting and after PHE completion,
- Significant increase in HIV knowledge from 78.1% to 90.2%

HIV Knowledge Improvement

- HIV electives now running in Universities of Ottawa and Alberta

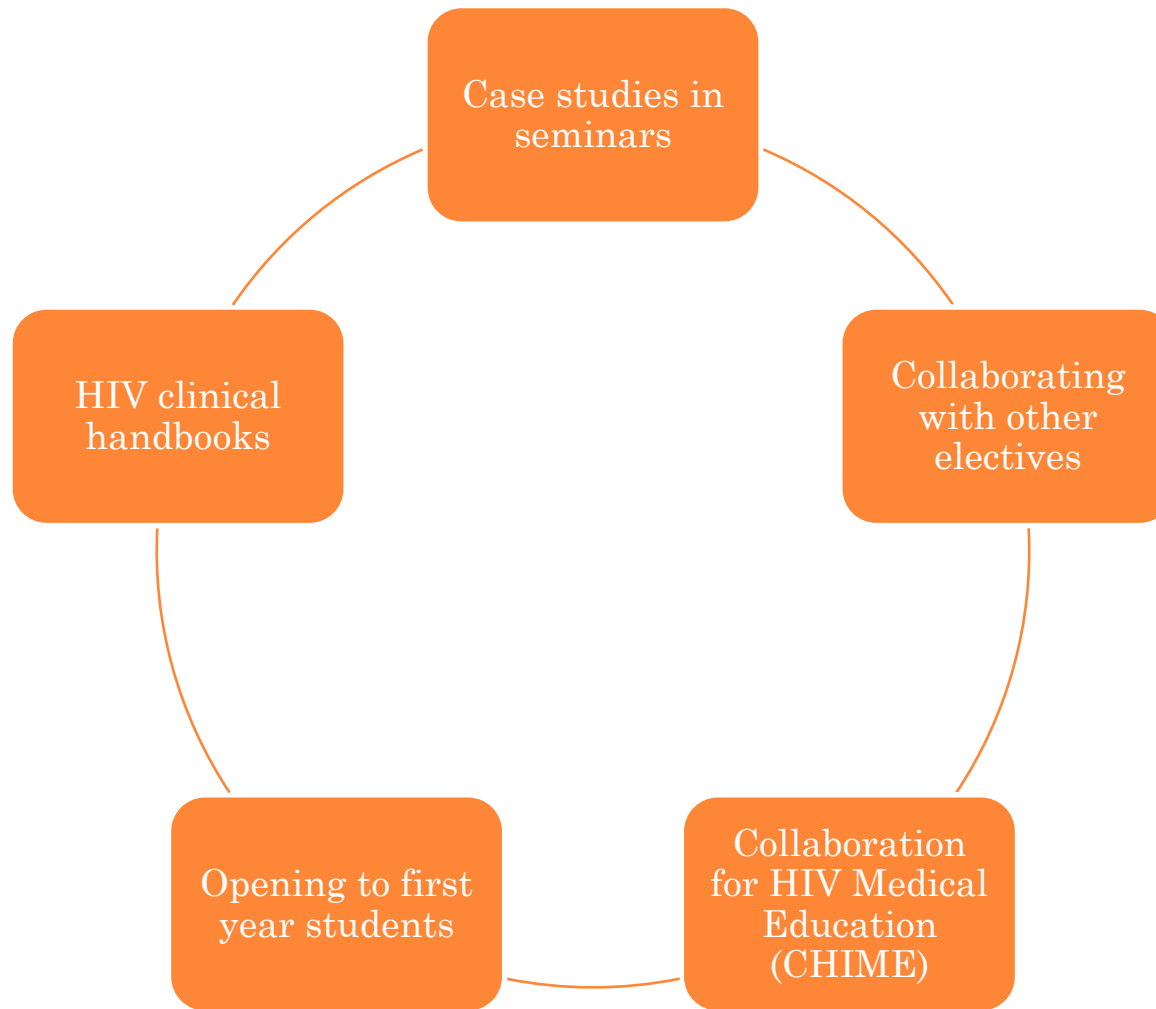
Elective as a Model

- 2008: 18 medical students
- 2012: 40 medical students
- First year students serving as junior co-ordinators

Increase in Enrolment



FUTURE DIRECTIONS



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Faculty advisor: Dr. Anita Rachlis, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
- PHA advisor: Gareth Henry, Toronto People with HIV/AIDS Foundation (PWA)
- Funding agencies
 - OHTN
 - University of Toronto Medical Society



REFERENCES

1. BBC News. (2008, July 22). Doctors 'miss early HIV symptoms'. BBC. Retrieved July 26, 2008, from <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7518175.stm>.
2. Beckwith CG, Boutwell A, Simmons E, Adrien-Jean A, Flanigan TP. Barriers to routine HIV testing and counseling. Presented at the 41st annual meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America. San Diego; Oct. 9-12, 2003: Abstract 611.
3. Chew D., Jaworsky D., Thorne J. , Ho M., Andany N., Morin C., Hoffman N., Henshaw C., Rourke S.B., Fisher M. and Rachlis A. Development, implementation, and evaluation of a student-initiated undergraduate medical education elective in HIV care. *Medical teacher*. 2012; 34: 398-403.
4. Curtis JR, Paauw DS, Wenrich MD, Carline JD, Ramsey PG. Internal medicine residents' skills at identification of HIV-risk behavior and HIV related disease. *Acad Med*. 1994 69:S45–S47.
5. Estcourt C, Theobald N, Evans D, Lomax N, Copas A, David L, Edwards A, Fisher M. How do UK medical graduates rate their knowledge and skills in sexual health and HIV medicine? A national survey. *Int JSTD AIDS*. 2009; 20:324–329.



THANK YOU

