

## HIV VACCINE RESEARCH: A SHOT OF HOPE!

For a second year, PPMET has been awarded a \$25,000 grant to increase community awareness of HIV Vaccine research. Vanderbilt University's HIV Vaccine Trials Unit (HVTU) is one of 12 sites in the country conducting research in search of a vaccine for HIV. PPMET's relationship with the HVTU started several years ago, with a staff member volunteering to take part in a trial, and another serving on the Community Advisory Board. Again this year, PPMET received a grant from Ogilvy Public Relations and the National Institutes of Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to fund activities that use our community connections to spread the word about the trials and the need for volunteers in the Nashville area. PPMET's work will focus on women in general, and African-American and Hispanic females in particular. Be on the lookout for more information in an upcoming edition of Flash and remember – HIV AFFECTS US ALL.



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### FROM THE CEO



Jeff Teague  
President and CEO

With the recent confirmation of Judge Samuel Alito to the US Supreme Court, the future of reproductive right has never been more uncertain. The loss of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has put abortion rights in greater danger than they have been in since the Roe v. Wade decision more than thirty years ago.

While no one knows for sure what might actually happen to these long established rights, there are two predominant schools of thought emerging on how the Court may act: 1) The Court may allow Roe to stand, but allow for more restriction; or 2) The Court may completely overturn Roe and allow the states to legislate abortion rights.

Since abortion rights have been in place for over thirty years, many Court observers think it is unlikely that the Justices will completely overturn Roe. Instead they believe that with the new make-up of the Court, we will see it move away from the fragile compromise of "undue burden" brokered by Justice O'Connor. Under "undue burden," the Court allowed the states to make certain restrictions on abortion as long as they did not threaten the life or health of women. Examples of these restrictions are parental consent with judicial bypass and 24-hour waiting periods.

With the retirement of Justice O'Connor, the pivotal vote that protected "undue burden" is gone. If the Court abandons this compromise, we could see the states enact more and more restrictions on abortion, ranging from much longer waiting periods, to spousal consent, to requiring doctors to read pre-scripted factually inaccurate medical statements. So while abortion would technically still be legal in the United States, it would be virtually impossible for poor and low income women to obtain the procedure due to the restrictions.

The alternative could be even worse. The Court may completely overturn Roe, allowing the states to restrict or criminalize abortion. That situation would create a chaotic environment, with abortion laws varying from state to state. Reverting to the pre-Roe world, abortion would be legal in only twelve states, where those rights are either codified or rulings from state Supreme Courts have found a constitutional right to privacy and abortion. Currently, abortion would continue to be legal in Tennessee, based on a ruling by the Tennessee Supreme Court that determined there is a constitutional right to privacy and, therefore, a right to abortion in our state.

This scenario is why we have to continue advocating against attempts to amend Tennessee's Constitution to eliminate that right. For the past four years, a piece of legislation, SJR 127, introduced by Senator David Fowler (R - Signal Mountain) has been successfully stopped. Undeterred, Senator Fowler has introduced the bill again and we expect that, during this election year, every attempt will be made to push the bill through, either scoring political points or causing political damage.

It is important to remember that for years polling has shown, and continues to show, that approximately 67% of Americans — and roughly the same percentage of Tennesseans for that matter — support a woman's right to abortion. While mainstream Americans support this right, some elected members of legislative bodies across the country do not reflect the thinking and beliefs of their constituents and most voters.

With the Tennessee General Assembly starting its regular session, please contact your Representative and State Senator to let them know that you support reproductive rights in general, and specifically that you are opposed to an attempt to amend our Constitution. If you have not already signed up for our action alert network to receive important updates and requests for actions, please so do by signing onto [www.ppmet.org](http://www.ppmet.org) and clicking on the "Get Involved" link.

And remember: No apologies! No retreats!

*Jeff Teague*



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**We're More  
Than You Think.**

## NEW HEALTH CENTER SERVICES

Beginning in January, both our Nashville and Knoxville health centers began offering the OraQuick ADVANCE Rapid HIV Test. Unlike older forms of HIV testing that require a blood sample that must go to a lab and consequently take several days for results, the OraQuick ADVANCE Rapid HIV test requires only an oral swab from inside the cheek or a fingerstick for a drop of blood. OraQuick doesn't require any special lab equipment and is entirely portable. Test results are available in only twenty minutes and have greater than 99% accuracy!

With older and slower tests, it was not uncommon for patients to fail to return to the health centers to get their results. We hope that this easier and faster method of HIV testing will lead more clients to learn about their HIV sta-

tus, helping to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

In addition, as of July 1, 2005, clients at our Knoxville health center are now covered by our Title X Family Planning Grant. Under the Title X grant, a sliding fee scale is used to determine how much a client pays for services. Clients pay based on their income and their family size. Some clients will pay nothing for services, while other might pay the full fee.

PPMET has been working for the last several years with the Tennessee Department of Health to allow us to use Title X funds at our Knoxville health center. Funds had not been available there for more than a decade. We are excited to once again be offering sliding scale services to low-income women and men in East Tennessee.

## PPMET HOSTS WORKSHOP FOR KNOXVILLE-AREA PROFESSIONALS

PPMET will host "What You See Is What You Get: Sexuality and the Media," a one-day seminar for professionals, on March 22.

Today, the media has a more powerful impact in shaping our attitudes than ever before, particularly on young people. TV, movies, the Internet—they all have an effect on a young person's self-esteem and decision-making skills.

PPMET's workshop is aimed at educators, counselors, ministers, and others who work with youth (parents are welcome, too!), and designed to help adults use media in a positive way to teach and influence healthy decision-making.

The workshop will be led by Elizabeth Schroeder, MSW, EdD(c). Ms. Schroeder has trained thousands of professionals throughout the

country in sexuality education skills, is the author of numerous sex education curricula and articles, and is the Co-Founding Editor of The American Journal of Sexuality Education.

For more information or to register, please visit [ppmet.org](http://ppmet.org), or call Jenny Fairchild at 865-694-7155, ext. 3.



## PPMET SAYS GOODBYE...



Tamara Currin will be missed.

Tamara Currin, Manager of Education and Training, left PPMET in early January to join Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center as the Health Educator-Coordinator for the Community Network Program. The program, funded by the National Cancer Institute, focuses on reducing cancer health disparities.

During her five years at PPMET, Tamara provided quality education programs to thousands of teens and young adults, and training to thousands of professionals. She served as a leader within the department, where she trained new educators, volunteers, and interns. And, Tamara's professionalism and leadership extended to the community. Soon after joining the Nashville Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Council, she became its chair, steering the group through a time of transition. We will miss Tamara's sense of humor, her team spirit, and her dedication to the youth and professionals she served. We wish her well on her new venture.

## CECILE RICHARDS NAMED PRESIDENT OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION OF AMERICA



New PPFA President, Cecile Richards.

In January, Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) announced the appointment of Cecile Richards as its next president. Ms. Richards is one of the nation's most prominent activist leaders and will join Planned Parenthood in mid-February after more than 20 years at the helm of social justice movements.

Ms. Richards has a long history of work in the reproductive rights community. She created and directed the Turner Foundation's national pro-choice project and has served on the boards of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund and NARAL Pro-Choice America. Ms. Richards also served as deputy chief of staff to Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, founded the Texas Freedom Network to counter the influence of the radical right wing, and worked on the campaign of her mother, former Texas Governor Ann

Richards. She is currently president of America Votes.

"It is a great honor to assume the leadership of an organization that stands for the very freedoms embraced by the majority of Americans; the ability to decide when and whether to have children; and the importance of privacy, safety and access to health care," Ms. Richards said. "I look forward to working with Planned Parenthood affiliates, staff and partners to realize the dream of access to reproductive health care for all."

Please join us in welcoming Cecile Richards to the PPFA family.



Visit [www.ppmet.org](http://www.ppmet.org) to join our email alert network!

## WELCOME TO...



Kayce Matthews joins PPEMT as the PG-13 Players Coordinator.

Kayce Matthews joins PPMET as the PG-13 Players Coordinator. Kayce is a native Nashvillian; however, her life has taken her to many corners of the world. She graduated from Stephens College in Columbia, MO with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in 2000, then spent several years doing both regional theatre and summer stock work at various theatres around the country. Kayce then served a year as a member of AmeriCorps working as an advocate and educator for a local crisis center in New England. During that time, she worked in local schools with teens addressing issues such as Healthy Relationships, Dating Violence and Media Images. After returning to Nashville, she worked briefly as a catering manager at Hillwood Country Club before joining the PPMET staff. As if managing 17 teen actors isn't enough, in her spare time Kayce is pursuing a masters in counseling psychology.

## 2006 GALA IN THE GARDEN SPEAKER ANNOUNCED!

PPMET is pleased to announce the keynote speaker for the 2006 Gala in the Garden, Loretta J. Ross.

Loretta is the National Coordinator of the SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective, a network founded in 1997 of 70 women of color and allied organizations that work on reproductive justice issues. Ms. Ross was National Co-Director of the April 25, 2004 March for Women's Lives in Washington D.C., the largest protest march in U.S. history with more than one million participants. From 1996-2004, she was the Founder and Executive Director of the National Center for Human Rights Education (NCHRE) in Atlanta, Georgia. She lectures frequently on human rights, women's rights

and hate groups and right wing organizations. She is a political commentator for Pacifica News Service, and has appeared as a political commentator on Good Morning America, The Donahue Show, The Charlie Rose Show, CNN and BET. Ms. Ross is currently working on a new book on reproductive rights entitled *Black Abortion*.

We hope you'll plan on joining us for Gala in the Garden at the Loew's Vanderbilt Plaza on Wednesday, May 10, 2006.



2006 Gala in the Gardens keynote speaker Loretta J. Ross



New PPMET Manager of Education and Training, Emilia Canahuati

PPMET welcomes the new Manager of Education and Training, Emilia Canahuati. Emi recently moved to Nashville from Washington, DC where she coordinated a program for a Latino community-based organization and a pregnancy prevention program at a public high school. Before moving to Washington, she worked as a family planning counselor and then as a senior sexuality educator for Planned Parenthood of New York City. Since her arrival in Nashville, she has been working as a consultant and for a company that offers concierge services to Vanderbilt Hospital employees. Emi is looking forward to getting back into sexuality education and using her Latina background and professional experience to expand the work that PPMET is doing with the Latino community in Tennessee. She also plans to test her other passion on her PPMET co-workers: baking. Somehow, we're sure they'll survive! We are pleased to welcome Emi back to the Planned Parenthood family!