



Women In Science Scholars Annual Meeting Highlights

October 3, 2016

Marilyn Foote-Hudson, Executive Director of the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation welcomed the audience. She recognized the scholars who will graduate in December, and also recognized and thanked the mentors for their commitment to the Women in Science Scholars program.

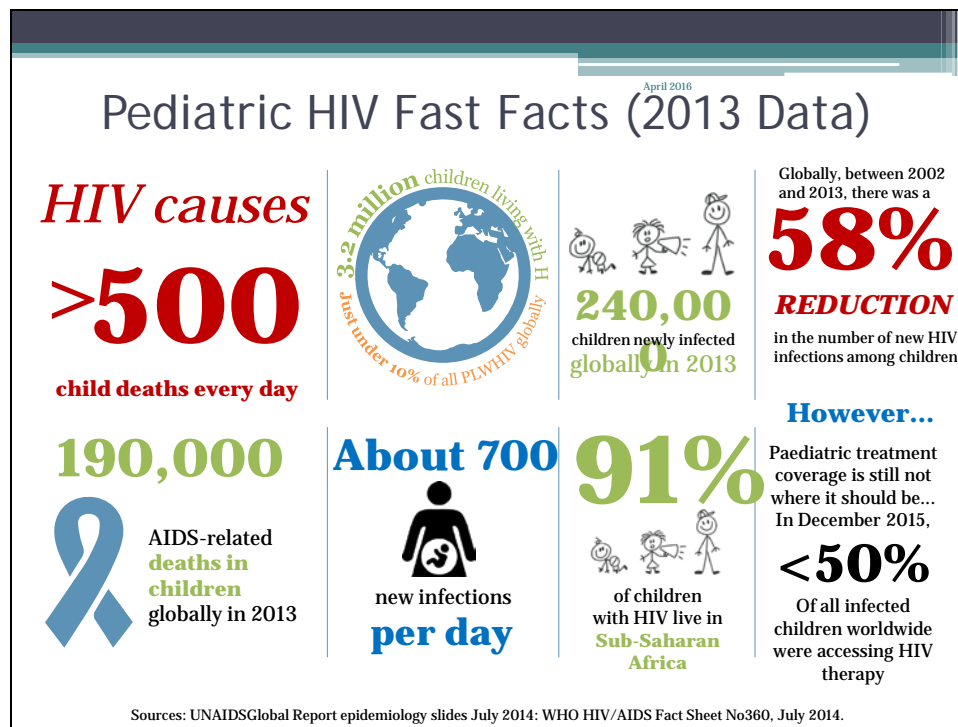
Marilyn provided background about the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation, outlining its main grant programs, including traditional grants and Ribbon of Hope grants. She noted that the Foundation is closing in on its goal to touch in a meaningful way all 100 counties in North Carolina, with just seven more to go!



She also talked about the Foundation's Child Health Recognition Awards program, which honors public health professionals for their innovative and creative approaches to improving the health of children and families. She introduced the keynote speaker, Annie Buchanan, MD, MPH, a physician and researcher who works for ViiV Healthcare in pediatric HIV drug development. Dr. Buchanan also has an adjunct faculty appointment with the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Duke University.

**“From Thailand to Tanzania: My Journey in HIV Medicine”, Annie Buchanan, MD, MPH,
Physician Project Lead, Dolutegravir Pediatric Program, ViiV Healthcare**

Dr. Buchanan talked about her journey into medicine, which she began shortly after college as a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand, where she worked on health education, including nutrition and HIV/AIDS. “Right out of college and life changing” is how Dr. Buchanan described her Peace Corps experience. Following several years of education and residency training, she joined the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative in 2006, working in Malawi and Tanzania to combat malnutrition and test and treat infants and children for HIV. She spent a total of six years in sub-Saharan Africa, later working with Duke University Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases in both clinical care and pediatric HIV clinical trials. She shared results of research that showed a dramatically increased uptake of early infant testing and a trend toward a decreased rate of mother to child transmission of early HIV infection for Tanzanian babies from 2008-10.



Dr. Buchanan’s current work centers on development of age-appropriate formulations of antiretroviral (ARV) drugs, including pediatric fixed-dose combinations to support optimal treatment for HIV-infected infants, children and adolescents.

Lunch included conversations and networking between the volunteer mentors and over 40 scholarship recipients in the Women In Science Scholars Program this year. Each scholar had the opportunity to ask questions and learn from the mentor’s experiences in the pharmaceutical industry.

The afternoon included two sessions and more time for scholars to get to know the mentors.

**“Embracing Your Inner Explorer in Real Life and Virtually”, Abby Ross
GSK Digital Strategy Manager, Communications and Government Affairs**

Abby Ross led off with how her career path has been wide and varied, reflecting her love of science as well as art, and taking her from Johns Hopkins to Case Western Reserve University to Duke University to GSK. She is currently the company’s digital strategy manager, focusing on the use of social media to promote GSK and engage people.



She shared with attendees to “follow what inspires you,” and be ready and open to exploring new options. “Say yes more than you say no” and she told attendees that studying science gives people confidence and a curious mind, both of which will benefit them in their careers.

Key points she provided includes:

- Figure out your driving force, then be able to sell your vision and your strengths to others, based on what drives you.
- Use social media wisely, always keeping in mind that future employers will check it. Make sure it portrays you positively and professionally.
- Be sure to network in person, and not rely simply on social media.
- Take advantage of professional networking sites, like LinkedIn, and check out The Muse, a new job search site for millennials, and follow companies and people you are interested in on Twitter.
- Start a blog. It demonstrates your ability to write, design, tell a story and form your own opinion. It is something that recruiters pay attention to.
- Be prepared to fail. Those who are most successful are people who have experienced failures along the way—because not everything you try is going to work out.

For establishing your online reputation, follow these tips:

- Keep it clean. Make sure that your social media presence online is professional.
- Be aware. Continually listen to conversations happening across the web.
- Be worldly and explore. Don't spend all of your time in one place.
- Be authentic. Imagine you are speaking to your audience in person rather than online.
- Be accessible and responsive. Respond to questions, comments on your blog, tweets, etc.

Another interesting session highlighted the experiences of a current mentor in the NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation's Women In Science Scholars Program, Dara Elder.

"In the End", Dara Elder, GSK Associate QC Scientist, QC Microbiology

Dara Elder, started her presentation by quoting Abraham Lincoln, saying this quote has become her guiding force: *"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."* She talked about being the first in her family to attend college. She aspired to higher education as a way to see more of the world and contribute to the world in a positive way. She spent time in Turkey, Zambia and Kazakhstan, and said her travels have inspired a long-term goal of working internationally in access to healthcare. She went to Zambia as part of GSK's Pulse Program, which gives employees the opportunity to take skill sets to other areas of the world. Her work with Leonard Cheshire Disability, an international NGO that works to enrich the lives and promote independence for more than 100,000 people living with disabilities across Africa and Asia, taught her about the challenges these individuals face daily and allowed her to use her organizational skills to make improvements in the work place.

She urged attendees to "do what you want, so you don't have regrets," and to make sure "you are living the life you want to live" by always being open to new opportunities and change.

Some key points:

- Be open, be ready, become
- Shake up your world
- Don't look back
- Dream and dream big
- You can do great things!

Marilyn Foote-Hudson thanked all of the presenters and wished the scholars success in their school year. She reminded them of the importance of networking, and urged them to stay in touch with people

they had met today. Also, save the date for the Women In Science Scholars spring conference on Friday, March 3rd.