

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT, covering the period of February 2003 – April 2003 (the formal period appearing in the contract is September 2002 – February 2003)**

Submitted to the U.S. Agency for International Development; Bureau for Global Programs, Field Support and Research; Center for Economic Growth and Agricultural Development.

Title: Coronary Heart Disease Risk in Palestinian and Israeli Residents of Jerusalem

**Principal Investigator: Prof. Jeremy D. Kark,
Head, Epidemiology Unit, Hadassah Medical
Organization, Ein Kerem, POB 12000,
Jerusalem, Israel**

**Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Izzedein Hussein,
Head, Cardiology and Internal Medicine,
Makassed Islamic Charitable Hospital, Mount
of Olives, A-Tur, Jerusalem**

Project no: M21-002

Grant no: TA-MOU-01-M21-002

**** Initial funds for this study were transferred in February 2003. No work was undertaken prior to transfer of funding. This report therefore relates to less than 3 months' work.**

Section I: Technical Progress

A) Research objectives

Objectives for the first 6-month period were:

1. Planning of the two parts of the study (registry of acute coronary syndrome ACS incidence and coronary risk factors survey)
2. Establishment of administrative contacts with outside institutions (hospitals etc.) for access to medical data required for the performance of the ACS registry
3. Recruitment and training of staff
4. Preparation of forms
5. Initiation of registry data collection and entry.

B) Research accomplishments:

1. A coordinator of the Israeli team was employed as of March 15.
2. Procedures for the Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) Registry and Population Risk Factor Survey are being adapted based on previous studies performed by the Israeli PI.
3. Preparation and translation of protocols is ongoing. The first protocol of ACS data collection and management has been prepared and was translated into English to enable use by our Palestinian study partners.
4. Contact with other institutions –the PI had an initial meeting with the Jerusalem District Medical Officer (Dr Chen Zamir and her staff) to discuss access to death certificates, District Office personnel to be involved and the methods to be employed in the coronary death part of the ACS data collection. Dr Zamir was positive in her support of this section of the study which entails all Jerusalem residents who are citizens (largely the Jewish population of the District) or permanent

residents (mainly the Arab residents of the city). All death notifications are by law supposed to reach the District Health Office.

C) Scientific Impact of Cooperation: -far too early

D) Project Impact: -far too early

E) Strengthening of Middle Eastern Institutions: -far too early

F) Future work: As this report in practice covers the first 2-3 months rather than 6 months of activity, the listed objectives remain to be accomplished in the coming months. In coordination with the Hadassah team, two Palestinian coordinators (separately for the ACS registry and the population survey parts of the study) will be recruited in the coming weeks and their training will begin.

Section II: Project Management and Cooperation

A) Managerial Issues:

Administrative—the administrative framework is being developed.

Budgetary—the Hadassah budget is being used according to the projection but at a slower rate; as the pace of the study increases the outlay will increase accordingly

Makassed has yet to begin expenditures

Staff: Dr. Rita Fink, the coordinator for the Hadassah arm of the study, and main liason with our partners has been employed since 16.3.2003

Time table changes: We plan to begin the population risk factor survey in 3-4 months [July-August 2003], contingent on receipt of the population sample list of Jewish and Arab residents of Jerusalem from the Population Register run by the Israel Ministry of Interior. *There is an important error that appears in the contract concerning the time-line —the population survey is planned over a period of 18 months and not 6 months—see proposal.*

Equipment:

The Hadassah team - a US made minus 80 deep freeze has been purchased, 2 computers ordered.

The Makassed team - purchasing of these and others items is being planned.

B) Special concerns: none currently

C) Cooperation, Travel, Training and Publication:

1. Cooperation. Dr Rita Fink, and subsequently Dr Kark, have met with Dr. Izzedein Hussein, the Palestinian Co-PI to discuss subjects that included the general scheme of the project, the procedures of the ACS registry including the first protocol, selection of staff and organization of facilities. Telephone and e-mail contact are used.

2. Training. Dr. Rita Fink has been undergoing training in the methods and procedures of the population risk factor survey. The training has been performed by the staff of the Hadassah Epidemiology Unit headed by the PI. The training of the Palestinian staff will follow and will be performed both by the staff of the Hadassah Epidemiology Unit and by the Israeli coordinator.

D) Request for USAID Actions: -