MICRONUTRIENT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
(HRN – A-00-98-00027-00)

Progress Report

Activities over the Past Six Months (1 April 2000 to 30 September 2000)

IVACG

- Prepared and distributed minutes from the 23-24 March 2000 IVACG Steering Committee meeting.

- Continued planning for the IVACG Annecy Conference to be held in Annecy, France on 30 October – 2 November 2000. Most of the background papers were collected from the invited authors and distributed to the IVACG Steering Committee and other invited participants. Issued invitations to those identified by the Steering Committee as guests for the last day of the Annecy conference. Provided airline tickets for the invited participants funded by USAID. Made hotel reservations for these same participants and continued communications with Fondation Marcel Merieux where the workshop will be held.

- Collected 227 abstracts submitted for the XX IVACG Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam; reviewed and grouped abstracts by topic and sent them to individual members of the IVACG Steering Committee for review. Invited rapporteurs for the XX IVACG Meeting. Prepared and distributed the invitation to the XX IVACG Meeting (4100 copies). Posted the invitation on the IVACG web site. Maintained contact with the Local Organizing committee. Distributed fundraising letters to interested food companies and other organizations. Develop contracts with three hotels in Hanoi where those attending the XX IVACG Meeting will stay. The meeting will be held at the Melia Hanoi on 12-15 February 2001. Responded to inquiries regarding the XX IVACG Meeting in Hanoi.

- Convened a meeting of the IVACG Steering Committee on 24-25 August 2000 to make final plans for the Annecy conference and to set the program for the XX IVACG Meeting. Following the steering committee meeting, minutes were prepared and circulated for review; authors of rejected abstracts were notified that their abstract was not accepted, authors of abstracts accepted for poster presentations were notified, and the meeting program prepared. A list of possible invitees for the "Day 0" meeting in Hanoi (a follow-on to the Annecy conference) was prepared and given to USAID.

- Published *IVACG Task Force on Combining Vitamin A Distribution with EPI Contacts.*

- Edited *IVACG Statement on the Status of the Studies on Vitamin A and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection* and *IACG Statement on Delivery of Vitamin A Supplements with DPT/Polio and Measles Immunization.*

- Notified the IVACG community of the death of Dr. Abraham Horwitz.

- Secretariat and a member of the IVACG Steering Committee participated in the meeting of the preparatory committee for the Special Session of the [United Nations] General Assembly in 2001 for Follow up to the World Summit for Children, held in New York City on 30 May – 2 June 2000.

INACG

- Managed the *Belmont Meeting on Iron Deficiency Anemia: Reexamining the Nature and Magnitude of the Public Health Problem* held on 22-24 May 2000 in Belmont, Maryland. This meeting was sponsored by WHO, the Clark Foundation through The Johns Hopkins University and USAID/INACG. Invited participants reviewed the evidence for an impact of iron deficiency and iron deficiency anemia on maternal mortality, child mortality, work productivity, child development, birth outcomes, and immunity and infectious disease. They also generated a list of research priorities. The group agreed to statement of the impact of iron deficiency and iron deficiency anemia that could be linked to developing country program development. Following the meeting, INACG had the revised manuscripts copy edited prior to submission to the *Journal of Nutrition* for publication. WHO will also publish a report of the meeting in their Technical Report Series.

- Convened a meeting of the newly appointed, seven member INACG Steering Committee on 25 May 2000. Dr. Lena Davidsson was chosen as the chair of the steering committee. The committee outlined plans for a symposium to follow the XX IVACG Meeting in Hanoi. Subsequently two conference calls were held for the Steering Committee to finalize plans for the INACG Symposium and a strategic planning session with invited participants.

- Made logistical arrangements for the INACG Symposium to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 15-16 February 2001. Solicited abstracts for poster presentations at the symposium (deadline for submission is 30 September). Prepared the draft symposium agenda and invited speakers, meeting invitation (as part of the IVACG Meeting invitation); and talking points for the steering committee members to use in contacting other groups with an interest in iron. These groups will be invited to participate in a strategic planning session on 17 February 2001.

- Provided guidance to PAHO in the development of a seminar on selection of iron salts for fortification. The seminar will be held at ILSI on 10-12 January 2001 and is sponsored by PAHO, ILSI and USAID.

Targeted Operational Research

- Monitored ongoing operational research efforts. Progress reports from Drs. Ahluwalia, Arthur, Beard, Gershwin, and Zlotkin were reviewed internally and externally. More detailed guidance was given regarding what is expected in progress reports. Comments from external reviewers were returned to Drs. Ahluwalia and Gershwin.

- A new proposal from Dr. Zlotkin designed to determine the bioavailability of iron-containing sprinkles was received and circulated for review. Dr. Penelope Nestel made contact with the Thrasher Foundation seeking collaboration with them in funding the project.

- Published *A Study of Factors Influencing Operational Issues for Iron Supplements for Infants and Young Children*, covering the results of a study funded by OMNI Research.

- Continued work on editing of the Quality Assurance manual started under OMNI Research.

MGL Administration

- Staffing changes – Ms. Laurie Aomari resigned her position as IVACG Manager. Mr. Dwayne Milbrand resigned his position as Financial Officer. Ms. Kathy Krolak resigned her position as Administrative Assistant. Ms. Dotty Foote has assumed the responsibilities of the IVACG Manager in addition to her responsibilities as INACG Manager. Ms. Patricia Lopez has been hired to fill the administrative assistant position. Ms. Melinda Thomas has assumed the travel arranging responsibilities that Mr. Milbrand handled. The financial reporting responsibilities, formerly covered by Mr. Milbrand, are being provided by the ILSI accounting staff. Ms. Aomari continues to provide services as a consultant on meeting planning and publication development.

- A work plan with budget covering FY 01 was submitted to Dr. Davidson and discussed with her.

- Necessary financial reports were submitted to USAID.

Activities Planned for the Next Six Months (1 October 2000 – 31 March 2001)

IVACG

- Manage the IVACG Annecy Conference on 30 October – 2 November. Take care of follow-up activities necessary to discuss the outcome of the Annecy meeting on 11 February 2001 in Hanoi, Vietnam (Day 0).

- Organize an IVACG Steering Committee meeting for 3 November 2000 to finalize plans for the XX IVACG Meeting in Hanoi.

- Complete planning for XX IVACG Meeting, including inviting guest speakers, sending acceptance letters to poster presenters, sending out a final announcement for the meeting, accepting meeting registrations, accepting exhibit registrations, preparing meeting materials, and securing airline tickets and lodging for participants paid with MGL funds or with funds raised by the secretariat from other sources.

- Manage the XX IVACG Meeting on site in Hanoi. Organize an IVACG Steering Committee meeting on site in Hanoi on 15 February 2001.

- Publish and distribute *IVACG Statement on the Status of the Studies on Vitamin A and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infections* and *IVACG Statement on Delivery of Vitamin A Supplements with DPT/Polio ad Measles Immunization.* Distribute *IVACG Task Force Report on Combining Vitamin A Distribution with EPI Contacts.* Distribution will be done using the postcard announcement system and by posting these documents on the IVACG web site.

- Begin preparation of the XX IVACG Meeting Report and publication of the "Annecy report" in other forms.

INACG

- Send all abstract to the abstract review group for decisions on acceptance for poster presentation at the INACG Symposium in Hanoi. Notify poster presenters that they will need to prepare a poster presentation.

- Complete preparation for the INACG Symposium, including confirming all speakers, soliciting expanded abstracts of their presentations, sending out a final announcement for the symposium, making the necessary travel arrangements, and preparing meeting materials.

- Complete preparation for the INACG Strategic Planning session on 17 February 2001 in Hanoi, including issuing invitations and developing an agenda for the

- planning session and the INACG Steering Committee meeting to follow (afternoon of 17 February 2001).

- Complete editing of Belmont manuscripts.

- Provide logistical support to the PAHO/ILSI/USAID meeting on iron fortificants scheduled for 10-12 January 2001.

- Begin preparation of the INACG Symposium report. Initiate follow-up activities based on Steering Committee direction.

Targeted Operational Research

- Continued monitoring of ongoing research. The ongoing projects of Drs. Ahulwahia, Beard, Gershwin and Zlotkin should be completed during this time period. Final reports will be reviewed internally and externally for content and impact of findings before final grant payments are made.

- New projects will be considered for funding as appropriate. These may include follow-up activities from the work funded under OMNI Research. A list of priorities was generate at the OMNI Research Evaluation Workshop in March 2000 and is in the OMNI Research final report.

- Prepare Quality Assurance Manual for publication.

VITA

- Provide support and guidance to the VITA Partnership as needed.

MGL Administration

- Prepare necessary financial reports.