

Expanding Contraceptive Possibilities

April 23, 2001, New York, NY - Experts estimate that 33 million, or one-fourth, of the 133 million births worldwide are unintended annually. It is also estimated that 46 million induced abortions are performed each year. The Center for Biomedical Research at the Population Council undertakes research to develop technologies that enable individuals to have safe, planned pregnancies and that promote their reproductive health. The Center has also expanded its program to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic, as well as the spread of other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Contraceptive methods currently under development focus on convenience, length of effectiveness, level of hormone dosage, reversibility and, some cases, protection against STIs and HIV/AIDS. The Center is also working to expand the limited contraceptive options available to men.

Welcome:

Linda Martin, President, Population Council

Speaker:

Regine Sitruk-Ware, M.D., Executive Director, Contraceptive Development, Population Council

Co-Sponsor:

PRC Board of Directors and the Population Council

Factoids:

"Women often cannot protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections by negotiating condom use or ensuring mutual monogamy." *Population Council*

"A woman who uses no contraception during her fertile years would need about 12 abortions to restrict her fertility to two births." *Population Council*

"5.3 million were newly infected with HIV in 2000, 36.1 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, and 3 million died from AIDS in 2000." *AIDS Epidemic Update, December 2000, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS*

"Women are increasingly affected by HIV/AIDS. Women represent 45% of those infected globally, and over 55% of those infected in sub-Saharan Africa." *AIDS Epidemic Update, December 2000, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS*

In Attendance:

Over 20 members of PRC's Board of Directors and invited guests.