

The

CULTURAL LINK



Volume 3,
Issue 10

DECEMBER
2004

Universal Human Rights Month

Question of the Month

DECEMBER QUESTION

What do these health professionals, publicized through the organization, *Physicians for Human Rights*, have in common: Dr. Alp Ayan, Turkey; Dr. May Win Mynt, Burma (Myanmar); Dr. Ciro Péna, Columbia; and Irene Fernandez, Malasia?

Email your response to comcatmp1@mail.etsu.edu by 4:30 pm on December 10th. Please include your full name and telephone number with your response. One winner will be selected to receive the prize.

The answer to the **November** question: About 30% of bone marrow transplant patients find a matched donor within their own family, requiring 70% of transplant patients to search for an unrelated donor. Source: [National Marrow Program Facts & Figures](http://www.marrow.org/MEDIA/facts_figures.pdf) http://www.marrow.org/MEDIA/facts_figures.pdf

Human Rights Milestones

Adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the United Nations (December 10, 1948): "...the right to life, liberty and nationality, to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, to work, to be educated, (and) to take part in government." Countries that embrace these statements observe December 10 as Human Rights Day.

Organizations as [Amnesty International](http://www.amnesty.org) (started in 1961) and [Human Rights Watch](http://www.humanrights.org) (1978) have successfully rallied support to protect human rights around the world.

Arts, Cultural, and Health Awareness Events on Campus and Nearby

Event	When	Where
Annual SCA Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale	12/1 12 PM - 12/3	Culp Ballroom
Basler Lecture - Mel Chin CSI: Creative Scene Investigation	12/8 7 PM	Culp Auditorium
"Fiddler On The Roof" Tri-Cities Broadway Series	12/9	Freedom Hall Box Office: 461 4884

DECEMBER OBSERVANCES

Topics of Interest In this Issue

Universal Human Rights Month: Health & Human Rights

AIDS Awareness Month & World AIDS Day, 12/1

December Article of The Month

Questions Raised by the Article of the Month

Other Observances in DECEMBER

Safe Toys and Gifts Month

Aplastic Anemia Awareness Week, 5 - 11

Hand Washing Awareness Week, 5 -11

Hanukkah, 8 - 15

Winter Solstice, 22

Christmas, 25

Kwanzaa, 12/26/04 - 1/1/05

Japanese New Year, 29



"It is my aspiration that health will finally be seen not as a blessing to be wished for, but as a human right to be fought for."
Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General
Source: WHO-Health & Human Rights
<http://www.who.int/hhr/en/>

Article of the Month

Taylor A et al for the African-American Heart Failure Trial Investigators. Combination of Isosorbide Dinitrate and Hydralazine in Blacks with Heart Failure. *New England Journal of Medicine* November 11, 2004. 351;20: 2049—57.
Link through Quillen COM Library Portal to <http://www.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/351/20/2049>

Summary: The African-American Heart Failure Trial examined whether a fixed dose of both isosorbide dinitrate and hydralazine would provide additional benefit in blacks, a subgroup previously shown to respond favorably to this therapy. This was a randomized, placebo-controlled, double blind trial with 1050 heart failure patients at 161 centers in the US. Patients were assigned to receive a fixed dose of isosorbide dinitrate plus hydralazine or placebo in addition to standard therapy (neurohormonal blockers) for heart failure. The study end point was a composite score of values for death from any cause, a first hospitalization for heart failure, and change in quality of life. The study was terminated early due to a significantly higher mortality rate in the placebo group than in the treatment group. The mean composite score was significantly higher in the treatment group, which also had a 43% reduction in death rate from any cause. The study concludes that the addition of a fixed dose of isosorbide dinitrate plus hydralazine (*BiDiL*) to standard therapy for heart failure increases survival among black patients with advanced heart failure. (NitroMed Inc, the manufacturer of *BiDiL*, funded in this study.)

HEALTH LINKS ON DIVERSITY

The listing below represent just a few of the resources intended to promote knowledge, awareness and discussions on diversity in health care for our students and faculty. We encourage you to use some of these as a beginning for classroom discussion, outside assignments, or student research.

TOPIC

TITLE & LOCATION

QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

Was this race-based clinical trial appropriate? What are the concerns when a drug manufacturer funds the clinical trials? Consider these and other questions raised by the African-American Heart Failure Trial (A-HeFT):



Bloche, MG. Race-Based Therapeutics. *New England Journal of Medicine* November 11, 2004. 351;20: 2035—37. Link thru Quillen COM Library Portal to <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/351/20/2035>

Franciosca J et al. African-American Heart Failure Trial: Rationale, Design, and Methodology. *Journal of Cardiac Failure* 2002; 8:3 (128 - 134)
<http://scbe.stanford.edu/events/pdfs/kahnaheft.pdf> (see A-HeFT defense on p. 133)

AIDS AWARENESS



Health Action AIDS site for health professionals. Advocates a comprehensive strategy to fight AIDS and links to HIV/AIDS initiatives. <http://www.phrusa.org/campaigns/aids/index.html>

What is behind the feminization of AIDS world wide? Commentary by Dr. Judith Auerbach
<http://www.amfar.org/cgi-bin/iowa/news/record.html?record=171>

Human rights, women and HIV/AIDS <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs247/en/>

HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS



Physicians for Human Rights website is packed with background information on human rights violations around the world and ways anyone can get involved in protecting human rights. Specific projects on Youth Justice, Landmines, Afghanistan, HIV/AIDS, (Healthcare) Colleagues At Risk; and their Forensics Program. <http://phrusa.org/index.html>

Health and Human Rights Database: Links to organizations working on human rights and health. Link to "Caring for Refugees and Survivors of Torture" by Moreno A & Grodin M
<http://www.glphr.org/database.htm>

Human Rights and Health: Reclaiming Child Soldiers' Lost Lives, Lamberg L. <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/292/5/553> **JAMA** has devoted the first issue each August since 2001 to research, case studies, and clinical trials related to health and human rights.