Just to put [the tsunami] in perspective for a second, imagine that the province of Aceh has 4 million people in it, roughly half the amount of people in New York City, and it’s—probably, when the death toll is fully accounted, will be 110,000. So imagine being in New York City and having lost 220,000 people in one day.

Wafaa El-Sadr, right

El-Sadr Honored by Mayor Bloomberg

Wafaa El-Sadr, professor of clinical medicine and epidemiology at Columbia, was among six individuals and institutions honored by New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg to commemorate World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, 2004. At a reception at Gracie Mansion, honorees were cited for their exemplary service to help stem the tide of HIV/AIDS in the City of New York. El-Sadr, who also serves as chief in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Harlem Hospital, was acknowledged for her role in meeting the needs of women and substance abusers. She was also acknowledged for cofounding and directing the internationally renowned Mailman School HIV/AIDS initiative, MTPC+Plus, which provides access to care and treatment to HIV-infected women and their children and partners in resource-limited countries in Africa and Asia.

On Nov. 30, at a World AIDS Day symposium co-sponsored by the Mailman School and the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), El-Sadr was honored for her leadership in epidemiology and the management of HIV and tuberculosis, the MTPC+Plus initiative, and her dedication to developing successful clinical programs to combat infectious disease.

The MTPC+Plus Initiative is one of four major programs conducted through the Mailman School International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP), which is directed by El-Sadr. It serves as a model multi-country, family-centered HIV care and treatment program in resource-limited settings and supports several programs in providing comprehensive care and treatment to HIV-infected women and their families.

Barnard to Join NSF Kaleidoscope Leadership Initiative

“Barnard was recently selected to participate in the National Science Foundation’s $1.3 million Kaleidoscope Leadership Initiative, an effort to develop faculty leaders in the sciences.

Barnard is among the first round of 38 institutions chosen for the Investing in the Future: Building Institutional Leadership for National Science Communities program. The NSF-led effort focuses on understanding theories of leadership and translating them into practical steps to enhance quality of learning. The goal is to transform undergraduate science, technology, engineering and mathematical learning environments.

Over the next two years, the project will engage schools in discussions on achieving their goals in order to make structural changes for strong programs to emerge and sustain for the long term. Barnard Provost Elizabeth Boylan and Dean Dorothy Dorburg were among the faculty at the first Project Kaleidoscope (PKAL) workshop, held Nos. 12–14 in Atlanta, Georgia.

“This effort builds on Barnard’s strong tradition of preparing women in the sciences and medicine and will involve faculty from all five laboratory science departments: Learning from each other, and from faculty at other institutions with similar aims, will allow us to maximize the effectiveness of our introductory courses for potential science majors and non-majors alike,” Boylan said.

Harlem Hospital Center Awarded Grant

Harlem Hospital Center, an affiliate of Columbia University Medical Center, was awarded a $176,650 grant from Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation to provide glaucoma screenings in the largely African American Harlem and Upper Manhattan communities through Sept. 30, 2005. Glaucoma is a group of diseases that damage the eye’s optic nerve and result in vision loss and blindness, especially when left untreated.

Founded in late 1999, Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation is the active arm of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus, an organization of members of the United States Congress committed to providing access to screening and testing. Early detection is critical in preserving the sight of individuals with glaucoma. The foundation provides diagnostic screening opportunities for high-risk glaucoma population groups in the home districts of caucus members.

The 405-bed Harlem Hospital Center, the largest health facility in Harlem capable of treating the most seriously ill, serves one of the 10 largest and most densely populated neighborhoods in the United States.

Stanley Chang, chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at CUMC, said, "I am pleased that the dedication of our Harlem Hospital faculty is being recognized in this way. As a leading medical institution located in New York City, one of our primary goals is to give back to our communities by creating programs that can prevent or reduce the risk of potentially severely disabling diseases such as glaucoma."

"Past Perfect" at the Kantor Gallery

Above: Two examples from “Past Perfect.” The exhibition can be viewed in the window space of the Kantor Gallery in Chelsea (right).

Alison Elizabeth Taylor’s poster (below) is for a non-existent fantasy collaboration between herself and the influential East Village artist David Wojnarowicz (1954-1992). Wojnarowicz sometimes collaborated with other artists; he also participated in shows at Fashion Moda, an independent space located in the South Bronx, which closed in 1993. The show runs through Jan. 28.

"Past Perfect" at the Kantor Gallery

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