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## **Programming Connection Case Study Package / Trousse d'étude de cas diffusée dans Connectons nos programmes**

Materials from: ORCHID

A program of:  
Asian Society for the Intervention of AIDS (ASIA)  
Suite 225-119 West Pender St.  
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This document was assembled and uploaded to the Programming Connection in October, 2010.

For more information on ORCHID, read the Case Study in CATIE's Programming Connection at [www2.catie.ca/en/pc](http://www2.catie.ca/en/pc).

The Programming Connection is designed to encourage the revitalization of existing programs and the creation of new programs. Should you use any part of these materials, please credit the author/organization as named on this cover sheet.

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La présente documentation a été assemblée et téléchargée dans Connectons nos programmes en octobre, 2010.

Pour plus de renseignements sur ORCHID, veuillez lire l'étude de cas dans Connectons nos programmes de CATIE à : [www2.catie.ca/fr/cnp](http://www2.catie.ca/fr/cnp).

L'outil Connectons nos programmes a été conçu pour encourager la revitalisation de programmes existants et la création de nouveaux programmes. Si vous utilisez ces documents en totalité ou en partie, veuillez citer en référence l'auteur ou l'organisme tel qu'il figure dans cette page couverture.



**The ORCHID Project:**  
***Outreach and Research in Community Health  
Initiatives and Development***



**Bi-Annual Update**

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March 10, 2008

Dear Friends and Colleagues;

**The ORCHID Project** started March 1, 2004 and would not be possible without the advice and support of the community, including; service providers, researchers, sponsors, and most importantly, women from the sex trade community. In this bi-annual update, we take the opportunity to inform you of the project's progress and successes.

**BACKGROUND**

The ORCHID Project was established to provide HIV and other sexually transmitted infection (STI) information and prevention services to women working in indoor commercial sex establishments. The project is a service/research partnership between the Asian Society for the Intervention of AIDS (ASIA) and researchers from the BC Centre for Disease Control, the University of British Columbia, and Simon Fraser University.

The **service arm** of the ORCHID Project is a peer-delivered (women with sex trade experience) outreach program providing HIV and STI related education, support, intervention, and referral for indoor female sex workers. Teams distribute harm reduction supplies such as; condoms, latex gloves, and lube. Face-to-face education and printed materials are provided to sex establishment owners and workers.

Community programs have a greater chance of making an impact and remaining sustainable if they are based on clearly identified population needs, and are developed in such a way that evaluation of their impact is possible. Because of this, The ORCHID project includes a **research component**. ORCHID is a well-established community-academic partnership between the Asian Society for the Intervention of AIDS (ASIA) and researchers from the UBC Centre for Disease Control and Simon Fraser University. Data collected from this study have been reviewed and analyzed on an ongoing basis, and findings have been interpreted through monthly meetings with the peers and volunteers, and with sex workers themselves.

**ORCHID SERVICE UPDATE**

ORCHID currently employs five peers and five ASIA volunteers, all of whom participate in ongoing training, support, and team-building activities. Presently, service outreach teams are regularly servicing 31 establishments in the Lower Mainland.

**Skill Development Programming**

We are pleased to announce that ASIA has received funding from the Status of Women Canada to develop additional programming for the peers and female indoor sex workers. Members of the peer group have completed one-on-one individual service plans in which they have identified how the ORCHID Project can help them reach their personal goals. Using this information, we have started developing additional programming. Programming includes self defense workshops, pre-employment and employment workshops, and other relevant training opportunities.

**Legal Rights Information**

ORCHID continues to work with PIVOT Legal Society in providing legal rights information to indoor sex workers. In consultation with the community, we are in the process of developing legal rights pamphlets (all materials will be translated) and in-house workshops on following topics: Municipal law, police, immigration, prostitution, and child protection. We are producing legal rights cards that women can refer to in the event of a police raid or unscheduled visit by other enforcement officials.

## **ORCHID RESEARCH UPDATE**

To date, we have enrolled 99 women in the study. Table 1 and 2 provide a brief summary of some preliminary results.

**Table 1.** Sexual health related characteristics of study population (indoor commercial sex workers, n=99)

	No.	%
Number of indoor sex venues accessed by research	24	
Number of participants who completed questionnaire	96	97%
Completed HIV tests	92	93%
Completed STI test	90	91%
Never screened for HIV	16	17%
Screened for HIV only once	12	13%
Never screened for STI	7	8%
Screened for STI only once	6	7%
Reactive HIV tests	0	0%
<b>Positive Chlamydia tests</b>	7	8%
Positive Gonorrhea tests	0	0%

**Table 2.** Ethnicity study population (indoor commercial sex workers, n=99)

	No.	%
Total number of participants	99	100%
Asian (Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Filipina and South Asian)	45	45%
Caucasian	37	37%
Black (African and West Indies/Caribbean descent)	8	8%
Other	9	9%

### **Changes to the team**

We are pleased to introduce Vicky Bungay as new co-Principal Investigator. Vicky has been an active member of the investigative team since 2006. Valencia Remple has stepped down as a co-Principal Investigator to become a co-investigator. Raymond Leclair has left the Investigative team to pursue a new career path. We welcome Frank Yang, Christa Gardner, Jennifer Kwok and Jessica Jia as research assistants, and say good-bye to Jenny Zhang.

### **Knowledge Translation**

The ORCHID team recognizes that it is important to make the results of our research available to the community and the academic world. Therefore, Orchid regularly participates in conferences and symposiums as well as publishing in peer reviewed academic journals.

In 2007, Orchid findings were presented at the:

- 1) International Social Networking meeting (Sunbelt) in Corfu, Greece;
- 2) International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Research conference in Seattle;
- 3) European Conference on Complex Systems in Dresden, Germany;
- 4) SFU Health Science Department;
- 5) UBC Nexus Poster session;
- 6) BCCDC Poster sessions.

In January 2008, Orchid presented at the third annual symposium: Population Health and Cross-Border Collaboration in La Conner, Washington. In May of this year, ORCHID has been invited to present at the Community University Expo 2008, and the Women's Health Research Initiative's Summer Institute, both in Victoria.

## Manuscripts accepted in peer reviewed journals:

- Remple VP, Patrick DM, Johnston C, Tyndall MW, Jolly A. Clients of indoor commercial sex workers: heterogeneity in patronage patterns and implications for HIV and STI propagation through sexual networks. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*. May 15 2007
- Remple VP, Johnston C, Patrick DM, Tyndall MW, Jolly A. Conducting HIV/AIDS research with indoor commercial sex workers: Reaching a hidden population. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*. Summer 2007 Vol 1,2.161-168

We look forward to continuing our work in the community and to further collaborations with our community partners. We would like to acknowledge and thank you for your ongoing support for this project, and encourage your feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact **Soni Thindal** (ph: 604-669-5567 / @: orchid@asia.bc.ca) or **Paulien Brunings** (ph: 604-660-1929 / @: paulien.brunings@bccdc.ca) for more information about the ORCHID program or copies of published manuscripts or conference presentations.

We offer a special thanks to the invaluable Orchid peers and volunteers who donate their time. Both are crucial to the success of this project.

Yours truly, The ORCHID team:

Caitlin Johnston, co-Principal Investigator, BC CFE HIV/AIDS, SFU  
Vicky Bungay, co-Principal Investigator, UBC, STI Prevention and Control BCCDC  
David Patrick, co- Principal Investigator, Dept of Epidemiology, UBC CDC  
Valencia Remple, Investigator, UBC  
Soni Thindal, ORCHID coordinator, ASIA  
Paulien Brunings, Research coordinator, UBC CDC  
Chris Atchison, Investigator, SFU  
Cindy Masaro, ORCHID nurse, UBC

Ann Jolly, Investigator, Health Canada  
Jill Doctoroff, Executive Director, ASIA  
Gina Ogilvie, Investigator, UBC CDC  
Jacqueline Barnett, Collaborator  
Frank Yang, Research Assistant, ASIA  
Jessica Jia, Research Assistant, UBC  
Jennifer Kwok, Research Assistant, UBC  
Christa Gardner, Research Assistant, UBC  
John Lowman, Collaborator, SFU  
Mark Tyndall, Investigator, BC CFE HIV/AIDS, UBC

### Outreach team members:

Marbin, Harvy, Elina, Gail, Jane, Jessica, Lydia, Rosy, and Briana.

## We gratefully acknowledge the following sponsors:

- BC Medical Services Foundation
- STD/AIDS Control Division, BCCDC
- Canadian Institutes for Health Research
- Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
- Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research
- Vancouver Foundation
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Biolytical
- Abbott Canada
- The Shooting Stars Foundation
- Law Foundation of British Columbia



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University of British  
Columbia Centre for  
Disease Control

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August 16, 2007

Dear Friends and Colleagues;

**The ORCHID Project** started March 1, 2004. With this bi-annual update, we take the opportunity to inform you of the project's progress and successes. The ORCHID project would not be possible without the advice and support of the community, including; service providers, researchers, sponsors, and most importantly, women from the sex trade community.

**BACKGROUND**

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Community programs have a greater chance of making an impact and remaining sustainable if they are based on clearly identified population needs, and are developed in such a way that evaluation of their impact is possible. Because of this, The ORCHID project includes a **research component**. ASIA has a well-established community-academic partnership with researchers from the UBC Centre for Disease Control and Simon Fraser University. Data collected from this study have been reviewed and analyzed on an ongoing basis, and findings have been interpreted through monthly meetings with the peers and volunteers, and with the sex workers themselves.

**NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

We are pleased to announce that in partnership with PIVOT Legal Society we received a grant from the Law Foundation of British Columbia with the goal of providing legal rights information for indoor sex workers. We will be producing legal rights cards on 5 distinct topic areas which will be translated into several Asian languages. As well, we will provide a number of in-house workshops. Indoor sex workers have been consulted about the structure and topics of the project.

Since the police raids in December, 2006, we have noticed an increase in indoor sex establishments closing down and/or changing ownership. Owners/ managers may be fearful of enforcement, and this affects the amount of time it takes the ORCHID outreach teams to establish trust and rapport with new owners. Secondly, it is more difficult for the outreach teams to make regular visits, which are necessary to create continuity, if indoor sex establishments close down or change ownership.

We currently employ five peers and have the participation of four ASIA volunteers, all of whom participate in ongoing training, support, and team-building activities. Presently, outreach teams are regularly servicing 31 establishments in the Lower Mainland.

Finally, we offer our congratulations to two ORCHID peers who have decided to pursue educational and employment opportunities in addition to their commitment to outreach! It is great to see the project as a stepping stone for peers to explore different avenues in their life.

### **Orchid research developments:**

We are now under way with the second phase of the research arm of ORCHID. This phase includes qualitative and quantitative studies examining factors associated with indoor sex workers' health services access and utilization, HIV/STI risk-associated decision-making, and the development of a contextually and culturally-competent, acceptable, and feasible HIV/STI prevention strategy for indoor sex workers and their sexual partners. We are also assessing prevalence of HIV and STI. To date, we have completed interviews with 73 women. In Table 1 you will find a brief summary of the research developments.

**Table 1.** Sexual health related characteristics of study population (indoor commercial sex workers, n=73)

	No.	%
Number of indoor sex venues accessed by research	18	
Number of participants who completed questionnaire	73	
Completed HIV tests	69	95%
Completed STI test	68	93%
Never screened for HIV previously	9	12%
Screened for HIV only once previously	12	16%
Never screened for STI previously	6	8%
Screened for STI only once previously	6	8%
No regular health care provider	13	18%
Reactive HIV tests	0	0%
Positive Chlamydia tests	5	7%
Positive Gonorrhea tests	0	0%

For more information about the research component, or to request copies of conference abstracts or published manuscripts, please contact **Valencia Remple** at (604) 660-6451, or [valencia.remples@bccdc.ca](mailto:valencia.remples@bccdc.ca).

**Mark your calendars: The next community Consultation Meeting is coming up soon!!**  
 September 21, 2007 from 1.30-4.30 pm at the BC Centre for Disease Control, 655 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
 Lane Level Lecture Hall (Room 70A/B/C). Please see attached invite for more info.

We look forward to continued success in reaching out to women in this community, and to working with community partners. We would like to acknowledge and thank you for your ongoing support for this important project, and we welcome and encourage feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact **Soni Thindal** at 604-669-5567 or [orchid@asia.bc.ca](mailto:orchid@asia.bc.ca) if you would like more information about the ORCHID program.

Yours truly, The entire ORCHID team:

Caitlin Johnston, Investigator, SFU  
 Valencia Remple, Investigator, UBC CDC  
 Soni Thindal, ORCHID coordinator, ASIA  
 Paulien Brunings, Research coordinator, UBC CDC  
 Chris Atchison, Investigator, SFU  
 Vicky Bungay, Investigator, UBC CDC  
 Raymond Leclair, Investigator  
 Ann Jolly, Investigator, Health Canada  
 Cindy Masaro, ORCHID nurse

Jill Doctoroff, Executive Director, ASIA  
 Gina Ogilvie, Investigator, UBC CDC  
 Jacqueline Barnett, Collaborator  
 Jenny Zhang, Research Assistant, UBC CDC  
 Frank Yang, Research Assistant, ASIA  
 John Lowman, Collaborator, SFU  
 David Patrick, Investigator, UBC CDC  
 Mark Tyndall, Investigator, UBC

### Outreach team members:

April, Elina, Jenny, Gail, Jane, Jessica, Lydia, Rosy, Briana, and Tara

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