

Fulbright Scholar Lecture

“Gaps and Barriers to HIV/AIDS Treatment in Freetown”



On May 8 2012, U.S. Fulbright Scholar Dr. Dan Kelly from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, delivered a lecture at the U.S. Embassy on “Gaps and Barriers to HIV/AIDS Treatment in Freetown.” Dr. Kelly is a specialist in HIV/AIDS research and the executive director and co-founder of the Global Action Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving

community health care in Sierra Leone. He is currently working with the HIV Secretariat and is based in the Kono District, where he works with the local, non-governmental organization Wellbody Alliance.

Dr. Kelly spoke about the real life challenges which patients and health workers encounter during the course of diagnosis and treatment of the HIV/AIDS, the impact of cultural influences on care, and gender stigmatization towards female patients in particular. During his presentation Dr. Kelly shared statistics collected during his research Sierra Leone, giving a holistic picture of the current trend of the disease. This was followed by an interactive Q and a session with an audience of about 50 participants representing academia, government, and the medical profession.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by late Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas and is sponsored by the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA).

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