



UMBI
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
BIOTECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

NEWS

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**UMBI's INSTITUTE OF HUMAN VIROLOGY PARTNERS WITH MEXICAN
UNIVERSITY TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS**

Partnership Marks Second Collaboration with Latin American University

BALTIMORE – On Friday, October 27, 2006, UMBI's Institute of Human Virology (IHV) will partner with Universidad Autonoma of Guadalajara (UAG) in Mexico to focus on the fight against HIV/AIDS in Latin America. The partnership will establish the Institute of Human Virology Guadalajara (IHVG) on UAG's campus.

IHVG will conduct basic research, clinical research, training, care and education. IHV will assist UAG by providing its expertise and helping to establish the most effective, affordable and practical ways to care for HIV infected patients. Partnership plans also include a conference in 2007 in Latin America focusing on retrovirology.

A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by Dr. Robert C. Gallo, founder and director of HIV and a co-discoverer of HIV, Ricardo Leon, dean of the Universidad Autonoma of Guadalajara, and Antonio Leano, rector of the Universidad Autonoma of Guadalajara.

"We are excited to continue to establish international partnerships in the fight against HIV/AIDS," Dr. Gallo said. "This will continue to establish a mutually beneficial scientific collaboration between the United States and Latin America."

According to the United Nations, Latin America has more than 1.7 million people infected with the AIDS virus.

The partnership with UAG is the most recent international effort for IHV. The Institute formed a partnership with Universidad Autonoma of Nuevo Leon (UANL) in Monterrey, Mexico in October 2005 and recently developed a partnership with China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Nigeria.

IHV is a center of the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute (UMBI) and affiliated with the University of Maryland School of Medicine. For more information please visit www.ihv.org.

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