

## **REPORT TO UMSAEP**

**George J. McCall**

**September 2007**

This is a preliminary report, emphasizing my own contributions as a visiting consultant, on the January 2007 UMSAEP grant to Prof. Diana Gibson (University of the Western Cape), “Tuberculosis as Structural Inequality.”

As indicated in that proposal, some work on the project—e.g., human subjects review by the UWC committee--was actually undertaken in advance of my trip to South Africa and on to the fieldwork site in Namibia

I departed St. Louis on 18 June 2007 and arrived in Cape Town on Tuesday, 19 June. Jet lag prevented my accomplishing much on 20 June, but I did spend a very long day at UWC on Thursday, 21 June, working with Gibson mainly on filling out and substantially revising many aspects of our project proposal (quite typical of research projects).

The following day I flew ahead of Gibson to pursue some of those details in the capital city of Namibia, Windhoek. Over that weekend I obtained and studied several books that were key to our project. On Monday, 25 June, I met with the Nyae Nyae Development Fund to make arrangements that facilitated our work in that geographic area. The following day Gibson and her physician son Josh arrived by car. She and I then devoted the rest of the week to obtaining specialized supplies for our project, to obtaining

governmental authorization for it, and to conducting relevant background interviews with Ministry of Health officials who were familiar with the history of tuberculosis programming in the Tsumkwe area.

On Saturday, 30 June, all three of us drove via personal car to Tsumkwe, and on Sunday, 1 July, made on-the-ground arrangements with local experts. On Monday, 2 July, we hired a translator/interpreter in Ju/'hoansi (Charlie Nqeisji) for McCall's village-based interviews throughout the region, and Gibson made final arrangements for testing and interviewing (in Afrikaans) likely tubercular subjects in the remote village of //Nhoq'ma.

From 3-6 July, McCall conducted interviews about tuberculosis in a sample of Ju/'hoansi villages: Bushman locations in Tsumkwe itself, nearby villages (such as Doupos and De#ua), and remote villages (such as N!umdi and !Obaha). On the following weekend, McCall conducted observations and interviews at the medical clinic in Tsumkwe. On Monday, 9 July, he similarly conducted observations and interviews at the regional hospital quite some distance away in Mangetti Duin.

Meanwhile, on 4 July, Gibson attended a public presentation in Mangetti Duin, interviewed the only doctor at the hospital, and made initial arrangements for McCall's visit there. From Mangetti Duin, Gibson drove on to the Ju/'hoansi village of //Nhoq'ma, where she devoted several days to assisting Josh Gibson in the arduous task of sputum testing of inhabitants for tuberculosis, to conducting group and individual interviews, and to personally testing allegedly curative plants.

Late on Monday, 9 July, all of us reconnoitered back in Tsumkwe and began the sharing of separate data on the long drive back to Windhoek the following day (from where the Gibsons continued their drive back to Cape Town). McCall flew back to Cape Town where (following a weekend spent following up a previous project with Prof. Gavin Bradshaw) he and Gibson devoted Monday, 16 July, to additional data-sharing, formulation of interpretation of findings, and planning future publications from this project.

On Tuesday, 17 July, McCall began the extended return flight to St. Louis, where he arrived the following day.

Since that arrival, McCall and Gibson have continued via e-mail those sharing and planning processes, and are considering an invitation proffered to deliver preliminary analysis at the Society for Cross-Cultural Research meetings in February 2008. Print publications are expected to result, and perhaps even an advanced proposal for external funds.

Meanwhile, Prof. Gibson will return to Windhoek (probably in September) to continue the project, The remainder of project funds will therefore need to be transferred to UWC.