Introduction

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to participate in this exchange program. The period I spent at the University of Missouri was from April 25\textsuperscript{th} 2012 until May 14\textsuperscript{th} 2012.

The following was submitted to this committee in consideration of my application:

**UMSAEP PROGRAM – 2011/12**

The collaborative partnership as outlined in the UMSAEP will be embarked upon by:

- Peer mentorship and support (Um) will provide leadership to develop and improve the (questions) instruments and protocols for the interviews;
- Collaboration with senior and internationally renowned experts/researchers on sexual violence;
- Collaboration with senior and internationally renowned experts/researchers on recidivism
- Joint research and linkages on the similarities between the drug offenders (drug court experience) and sex offenders

My contribution to this collaboration includes:

- Engaging in and providing supervision / mentoring to graduate students from UM in Social Work who have expressed an interest in doing research on juvenile and adult sex offenders (Preliminary discussions have occurred with graduate students for this semester).
- Series of lectures to faculty staff on sex offender intervention, assessment and child protection.

**Colloquia with the following focus:**

- Assessment and intervention with juvenile and Adult Sex Offenders – programs for social workers and child advocate practitioners in Missouri
Series of lectures on intervention, assessment and management of sex offender risk factors - lectures for social work students, child protection advocates and child guidance practitioners.

The main and (minimal outcome) for this research include:

- Publication in an international accredited journal
- Further research to develop the knowledge gleaned from this project
- Shared supervision and mentoring of students who are interested in research on sex offenders, recidivism and the alcohol/substance abuse linkage(s)
- Independent research with graduate students

Summary of outcomes achieved and overall progress

Professor Pierce from the University of Missouri provided guidance/leadership prior to my departure from Cape Town. This enabled me to refine the topic area, revisit the methodological aspects that needed investigation.

During my consultation sessions with her on site, we looked at various research instruments that would best serve the purposes of the study, since many of these instruments would not be accessible to researchers outside of the USA. Consequently, I acquired such an instrument, however, this process implicated data collection activities.

During the time at the University of Missouri, I was able to gather the latest research articles, studies and literature from the various sources I was advised to consult. Accessing and gathering information for my study as well as those for my post graduate students with similar topics became important priorities for the time at my disposal.

The seminars, site visits, engagement with both practitioners and other academics provided good opportunities to ‘floodlight’ our own achievements in the work with juvenile and adult sex offenders, as well as the progress in South Africa on child protection legislation and related areas. Some partnerships with a local practitioner dealing with community-based intervention with sex offenders resulted. It is envisaged that once the current study is completed and the data analysis is finalized, we’ll explore possibilities for further scholarly activities.

Regarding the main outcomes for this program:

1. One article was submitted to a local (accredited) journal. This article emanated from some of the resources retrieved during the exchange, but uses local case studies to focus on the role of the state in protecting sexually abused children from known sex offenders. This article was a joint effort with a researcher from the HSRC.
2. The data gathering is complete for the sex offender study and is in the process of being analyzed in collaboration with a colleague with statistical acumen.
3. A draft copy of this sex offender article will be sent to Professor Pierce within the next week, when it returns from editing.
4. Ongoing consultations have occurred with students from the University of Missouri who are interested in placements in our department as part of their study abroad program. These arrangements are being done in consultation with Professor Lois and our international office.
In summary, I am of the opinion that this interchange provided me with opportunities to retrieve, access and explore resources that would not be possible at my home university because of several factors, teaching activities, administration and related demands. With hindsight, the initial time line presented in the application seems somewhat ambitious and I did not apply my mind sufficiently to the possibilities that instruments will have to be reworked, data gathering required different skill sets and that the analysis would require guidance with the competencies necessary. However, I believe that this time was spent appropriately and that it offered me opportunities to consolidate my current work and provided me with mentoring from renowned academics in their field.

Professor Lois was a gracious host and created opportunities for me to work independently, although she availed herself to ensure that the main program outcomes were priorities and that we continually explored ways to ensure a successful placement.