

also prevent oral contraceptive manufacturers from continuing to misbrand their products to the detriment of women's health (CRLP, 1994).

Unintended pregnancy is a significant public health issue in this country which takes its toll on women, families, and the nation as a whole. If widely available, emergency contraception could significantly reduce the rates of unintended pregnancy and abortions (Trussell, 1992). In 1997, the American College of Obstetrician/Gynecologists issued a *Practice Pattern* which made the provision of emergency contraception the standard of care in the event of an act of unprotected intercourse (American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists, 1996).

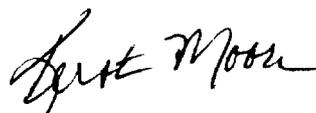
Despite the advent of two dedicated emergency contraceptive products on to the U.S. market, the public health benefits of emergency contraception have yet to be realized, in large part because many women do not know about this second chance to prevent an unintended pregnancy. A national random sample survey of physicians found that fewer than one in ten obstetrician/gynecologists discuss emergency contraception with their patients in advance of need (Kaiser Family Foundation, 1997). Similarly, results from a random poll taken among women aged 18-50 in New Jersey and Oregon found that less than one in ten women say they have discussed EC with their doctors or other health care providers (Hart Research and Associates, January 2000).

Moreover, a series of policy initiatives suggest that some women may have difficulty accessing emergency contraception. Because of "moral or religious objections" to emergency contraception, some health care professionals and health care systems are opting out of providing the standard of care. In one well known instance, the nation's fifth largest pharmacy chain has simply refused to stock dedicated emergency contraceptive products. Oral contraceptive pills are the most widely used form of reversible birth control in this country and as such, are likely to be more accessible to women than dedicated products.

When a woman experiences contraceptive failure or an unprotected act of intercourse, it is vital that she have easy access to accurate and reliable sources of information about her options. Similarly, clear labeling on oral contraceptives can help ensure that physicians and other health care providers discuss emergency contraception with their patients in advance of need.

In 1997, the FDA took the welcome initiative of issuing a "call to action" to potential EC pill manufacturers in the *Federal Register*; a step which helped to lay the groundwork for dedicated EC products in the U.S (1997). By requiring the relabeling of oral contraceptives to include their use as emergency contraception in instances of contraceptive failure or unprotected intercourse, the FDA can continue its efforts to expand the safe and effective options available to women to prevent an unwanted pregnancy and promote the public's health interest.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Moore
Project Director

Enclosure

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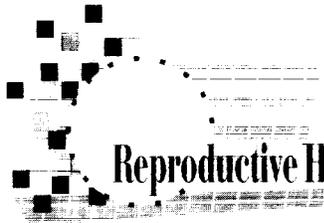
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Reproductive Health Technologies Project

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Amy Allina develops, manages, and implements programs and public policy efforts, including regulatory and legislative advocacy, public education, and constituency organizing. Previously, she was a Program Manager at BASS and HOWES, specializing in the areas of reproductive health and family violence. Amy serves as the Board Chair of My Sister's Place, a shelter for battered women and their children in Washington, DC.

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While maintaining an active practice in obstetrics and gynecology, Paul Blumenthal serves as Director of Contraceptive Research and Programs at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center and as Medical Director of Planned Parenthood of Maryland. He is committed to the development and implementation of innovative approaches to reproductive health issues in both the domestic and international arenas.

*Sandra Camacho
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Sandra Camacho is the Director of Services for the Violence Intervention Program and has fifteen-years experience in developing direct service programs in the areas of violence against women, reproductive rights, and multicultural/multilingual access. Prior to that, she worked for the Latina Health Policy Project in California.

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Prior to joining Family Health International in 1995, Ward Cates served for twenty years with the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta in positions including chief of the Abortion Surveillance Branch and Director of the Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV Prevention Division. He is a Member of the Institute of Medicine.

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Mary Chung is the Founder, President and CEO of NAWHO and a co-founding member of the Women of Color Coalition for Reproductive Health Rights. Over the past seven years, she has become a leading advocate for Asian American and women's health issues. She immigrated to the U.S. from Korea in 1980.

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As President of Population Action International, Amy Coen leads the organization's efforts to increase global political and financial support for effective family planning and other reproductive health services grounded in individual rights. Prior to joining PAI, Amy served for 13 years as President and CEO of Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area. Amy has more than 20 years of experience in reproductive health and rights advocacy.

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Linda Dominguez is a certified OB/GYN nurse practitioner and has twenty years of experience in women's and reproductive health. She is committed to community outreach and advocacy, particularly in the areas of teen pregnancy and minority issues. She has participated extensively in the design and production of sexuality education materials.

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Since 1995, Charlotte Ellertson has worked in the Population Council's Programs Division, where she is responsible for design and analysis of programs to examine, approve, and introduce reproductive health technologies such as medical abortion, microbicides, and emergency contraceptives. Previously, she was a manager of marketing research for Pfizer, Inc.

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Lynn Freedman is Associate Professor of Clinical Public Health and an attorney at Columbia University's Center for Population and Family. She focuses on the intersection of reproductive health issues and human rights, both internationally and domestically. She currently chairs the board of Research, Action & Information for Bodily Integrity of Women (Rainbow), and serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Baobab, a women's human rights organization in Lagos, Nigeria.

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Jane Johnson is a retired executive of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, most recently serving as interim national president. She serves as a director of Planned Parenthood of Greater Northern New Jersey, the Columbia University Institutional Review Board, and the Leadership Institute of Bennett College. She is currently conducting research on the origins of misogyny.

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Jacquelyn Lendsay is responsible for all areas of public policy at Planned Parenthood Federation of America including government relations, state and affiliate program development, and grassroots initiatives. Prior to joining PPFA, she served for seven years as Vice President for Corporate and Community Development for the Greater Southeast Healthcare System in Washington, DC.

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J.C. Lowery is active with the California Family Health Council on issues of male roles and responsibilities with respect to sexuality. He works at the community level focusing primarily on African-American teens.

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Angel Luis Martinez joined Cornerstone Consulting as a senior staff member to coordinate the technical assistance program for the California Wellness Foundation's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative. Previously, he was a consultant to the California State Department of Health and Human Services at the Office of Family Planning Male Involvement Initiative. Angel works with both young people and adults in the area of sexuality education.

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At CONRAD, Christine Mauck is responsible for clinical research, including study design, protocol development, study oversight, data analysis, and regulatory filings. Previously, she worked as a Medical Officer for the Food and Drug Administration, in contraceptive research for Ortho Pharmaceutical, and managed clinical trials for the Population Council.

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A clinical psychologist by training, Vickie Mays has been a member of the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Psychology since 1979. She is especially interested in health issues of concern to African-Americans and women, particularly HIV/AIDS.

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In addition to her position at the Downtown Women's Center, Dr. Newhall is in private practice as an Ob-Gyn at the Everywoman's Health Center, a city-run clinic. Previously, she was an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Oregon. As Principal Investigator for the Population Council's clinical trials on mifepristone, she was a key presenter to the FDA at its advisory committee meeting in July 1996.

Aracely Panameño
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Executive Director
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Aracely Panameño is Founder and Executive Director of NLIRH. Prior to NLIRH, Aracely was a Project Associate at Latina Partners for Health of HDI National Hispanic Education and Communications Projects, where she was responsible for communications strategies and activities. She assisted with the establishment of NLIRH while working for Catholics for a Free Choice, where she directed NLIRH's predecessor project, the Latina Initiative.

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While directing the Family, Maternal, and Child Health Programs for Contra Costa County, Cheri Pies also serves as an Associate Adjunct Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley. She has authored several books and articles on AIDS, ethics, and reproductive health. Her current focus is on the ethical questions that emerging reproductive technologies raise for consumers, providers, policy makers, and activists.

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Jael Silliman is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Women's Studies at the University of Iowa. Her interests lie in the field of population, environment and development and women of color issues regarding health and environment. She has also worked with the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, and consulted with UN Fund for Population Activities, UNICEF, and the Ford Foundation.

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Prior to her appointment at UCSF, she directed the Reproductive Health Program at The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. From 1994 through 1996, she served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She is author of *Understanding Your Body: The Concerned Woman's Guide to Gynecology and Health*, and is co-author of *Contraceptive Technology*, a major family planning reference guide.

*Sandra Welner, MD
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Silver Spring, MD*

Sandra Welner's work is focused on the health care needs of women with disabilities. Her goal is to eliminate barriers of accessibility, economics, insurance, and knowledge to enable women with disabilities and chronic conditions to be provided with appropriate medical care and to lead healthy and productive lives.

*Diane Williams, MPH
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The mission of Diane Williams is to significantly improve the health status of her Native American community and other low income, women of color communities with whom she works. Her love of public health motivates her to translate health information to her community so that they may be able to better take charge of their health. Her interests include multicultural health issues, alternative therapies and traditional Native American healing ways.

*Genester Wilson-King, MD
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Genester Wilson-King is an ob-gyn with an active clinical practice. She is the past chair of OB/GYN at the Florida Hospital Waterman Medical Center and serves on the board of directors of Lake County Family Planning. She is active in community health education efforts and regularly conducts presentations at schools, churches and in other community-based settings on adolescent sexuality, menopause, hormone replacement therapy, and other women's health issues.

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