

Packard Foundation Announces New Program Officer for Population and Reproductive Health

September 27, 2010

LOS ALTOS, California – The David and Lucile Packard Foundation announced today that Lester Coutinho has been appointed program officer in the Population and Reproductive Health Program. The Foundation works in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and the United States, and Coutinho will lead the South Asia subprogram. Coutinho will also lead Foundation efforts to glean and share lessons from previous grantmaking to support youth programs across the Foundation's geographies. Since 1999, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation has supported efforts to address population growth and promote reproductive health, especially in the areas of family planning and reproductive rights with a focus on women and young people. Coutinho's appointment is effective November 1, 2010.

Since 2001, Coutinho has served as Country Program Advisor for the initiatives supported by the Packard Foundation in India through a Packard grant to the Public Health Institute (PHI). During his time in this role, Coutinho focused on evaluation and evidence-based program work; created stronger partnerships between grantees and government; developed approaches for working with the private sector on reproductive health products and services; and facilitated partnerships between the government and the private sector on new technologies. Coutinho was also instrumental in promoting leadership development for non-governmental organizations and government staff and in creating strong advocacy networks to support the Foundation's India program.

"Lester brings deep knowledge and experience to our program," said Musimbi Kanyoro, program director. "He knows first-hand what it takes to achieve meaningful change in vulnerable communities which often lack the infrastructure, resources, and systems to support these programs and projects that can really change people's lives. I'm delighted to welcome Lester to my team."

Previously, Coutinho was associated with the Department of Sociology and Centre for Development Economics at the University of Delhi, and also the Health Policy Centre at the Institute of Economic Growth where he taught and researched on various health issues. He was awarded the Population Leadership Fellowship by the MacArthur Foundation in 2000. He has collaborated on various health research projects with international organizations and universities, and has worked with several national NGOs on issues relating to Sexual and Reproductive Health in India. He continues to be actively involved in health research and also training researchers, particularly on social science research methods and ethics of social science and clinical research. Early in his career, he worked as a journalist with an English language national daily for four years. Coutinho holds a master's degree in Political Science from the University of Gujarat, and a master's in Sociology from the University of Delhi. He also trained in medical anthropology and applied health research at the University of Amsterdam and at Johns Hopkins University.

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation is a private family foundation created in 1964 by David Packard (1912–1996), cofounder of the Hewlett-Packard Company, and Lucile Salter Packard (1914–1987). The Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations in the following program areas: Conservation and Science; Population and Reproductive Health; and Children, Families, and Communities. The Foundation makes national and international grants and also has a special focus on the Northern California Counties of San Benito, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey. Foundation grantmaking includes support for a wide variety of activities including direct services, research and policy development, and public information and education. The Foundation does not make grants intended to influence legislation or support candidates for political office. Foundation grant awards totaled approximately \$268 million in 2009. The Foundation expects grantmaking awards of up to \$236 million in 2010.