

Packard Foundation Announces New Advisor on Reproductive Health

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LOS ALTOS, California—The David and Lucile Packard Foundation announced today that Dr. Sara Seims will join the Foundation as a senior advisor on reproductive health strategy, effective summer 2011. Dr. Seims is currently director of the population program at The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

At the Packard Foundation, Dr. Seims will conduct a two-year research and consulting project to help increase the impact and effectiveness of European international development aid for reproductive health and rights. Focusing on Sub-Saharan Africa, Dr. Seims will study aid systems, and work with stakeholders in Europe, Africa, and the United Nations to improve the effectiveness of development funds for family planning and reproductive health.

“We are delighted for the opportunity to work closely with Sara for the next two years,” said Musimbi Kanyoro, Director of the Population and Reproductive Health program at the Packard Foundation. “Sara is well respected in our field and she will be leading very important research work that will help our future strategy and also influence our field. I am extremely thrilled to welcome Sara on our team.”

A leader in global reproductive health and population issues, Dr. Seims has spent the last eight years directing the population program at The Hewlett Foundation. She is former president of the Guttmacher Institute, where she led the organization to greater involvement in international reproductive health issues and behavioral research in the areas of HIV-AIDS. Previously, Dr. Seims has held positions at the Rockefeller Foundation, Management Sciences for Health, and the United States Agency for International Development.

Dr. Seims was the first chair of the board of the Nairobi-based Africa Population and Health Research Center, and currently serves on the boards of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy and Ruttgers/World Population Foundation (Netherlands). Dr. Seims received a B.A. in Anthropology from Rutgers University and a Ph.D. in Demography from the University of Pennsylvania.

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 \$234 million in 2010. The Foundation expects grantmaking awards of up to \$234 million in 2011.