

Pleasure Propaganda Update

News and events from The Pleasure Project

Welcome to the first edition of the Pleasure Propaganda Update -- your source for information about The Pleasure Project's events and projects, and sex-positive happenings around the world.

When and where we'll be 'doing it' in public

The Royal Society of Medicine's 'Sexual Pleasures Meeting'

When: 8 Feb 2008, 5:30pm

Where: The Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 0AE

More information: www.rsm.ac.uk/sexual-health

The Pleasure Project's Anne Philpott will speak alongside a clinical psychologist, an agony aunt and a specialist in cybersex, to illustrate the benefits of sexual pleasure for the medical fraternity. Anne will speak about The Pleasure Project's work with the public, show the audience how condoms can be erotic, and explain how eroticizing safer sex around the world is practised in different ways. Please come and support The Pleasure Project: book on-line at www.rsm.ac.uk/sexual-health, ring (+44) (0)20 7290 2984, or email: sexmed@rsm.ac.uk

Microbicides 2008 conference

When: 24-27 Feb 2008

Where: Hotel Ashok, New Delhi, India

Microbicides 2008 is a bi-annual conference for advocates and scientists working to make an effective vaginal microbicide that will protect against HIV available and affordable to all. This year, The Pleasure Project will present evidence from clinical trials and programmes which indicates that any potential vaginal microbicides should consider pleasure as a marketing tactic. This is due in part to the fact that microbicides and sexual lubricants share a similar consistency, and the latter has been marketed for its pleasurable benefits with great success. Visit www.microbicides2008.com to register.

Sexy research in 2008 (and how you can help!)

Updating the Global Mapping of Pleasure

The Pleasure Project received a small project grant from the Research Programme Consortium on sexual and reproductive health and rights at the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), at the University of Sussex, to update and improve our Global Mapping of Pleasure. Originally published in 2004 (read it here: www.thepleasureproject.org/content/File/Global%20Mapping%20of%20Pleasure.pdf), this first-of-its-kind resource lists programmes, projects and organizations worldwide that promote safer sex by using sex-positive, pleasurable messages and approaches. The updated edition will be available this Summer.

Promoting sexual health and rights through pleasure: a literature review

Thanks to a grant from the Women's Empowerment Research Programme Consortium at IDS, we will also be conducting a literature review on pleasure, safer sex and empowerment, to be completed Summer 2008.

CAN YOU HELP US WITH OUR RESEARCH?

We're looking for the names and contact information of projects, organizations, individuals and publications (published, peer-reviewed and grey literature) which

promote safer sex from a sex-positive perspective. These could be related to sex education, condom promotion, ad campaigns, counselling techniques, erotic media (e.g. porn films and websites), and any other sexual health- or sex-related projects, people or publications which focus on the positive or pleasurable aspects of sex, while delivering a safer-sex message. See our last edition of the Global Mapping of Pleasure for an idea of what we're looking for: www.thepleasureproject.org/content/File/Global%20Mapping%20of%20Pleasure.pdf. Then email us with your ideas or contact information: wendy@thepleasureproject.org

Where we 'did it' last year

Delivering the 'rings of pleasure' to the Women Deliver conference, London

Shock, curiosity and enthusiasm were among the reactions of attendees of the Women Deliver conference in London (18-20 October), where we discussed the many ways to make safer sex *great* sex using the 'rings of pleasure' (aka female condoms). We shared the secrets of pleasurable (safer) sex using this slippery, stimulating and safe little toy, and visitors to our stand received a free female condom, a postcard with sexy tips for using it, a peek at safer-sex scenes from erotic films, and information about good sex for HIV-positive women. Read more and download the Sexy Tips for Female Condoms postcard: www.thepleasureproject.org/section10/

Bringing the Power of Pleasure to ICAAP, Colombo

We showed attendees of the International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) some sexy tricks for mixing pleasure and prevention, in Colombo, Sri Lanka (19-23 Aug). According to Sister Mary Selinta, a Catholic nun from Sri Lanka who counsels young couples entering matrimony, and who attended The Pleasure Project workshop: *'This is the best session I have attended at this conference.'*

We were scheduled to host a single skills-building session on "The power of pleasure: how to talk about desire and make sex education sexier", but pleasure-hungry ICAAP participants had another idea. When all the seats were filled, people sat on the floor and stood in the aisles to take part. Once the door was closed, a note was slipped under the door announcing the presence of dozens more people outside who wanted to come in! During the session, participants learned how to be sex-positive in their approach to safer sex, and practiced various techniques, such as miming the sexy insertion of a female condom (thanks to the enthusiastic participant from Papua New Guinea!) and drawing 'places of pleasure' on a body map. We held a second standing-room-only skills-building session after-hours for all those who couldn't attend the first one. Read all about it at: www.thepleasureproject.org/inv/icaap8

Cyber Excitement!

You might think there's nothing sexy about a new website management system, but we sure got excited! The new system means our website is easier to update, so we've added new and improved Sexy Tips as well as additional information about our work and how you can support it. Check it out: www.thepleasureproject.org. Have a sexy tip you'd like to share? Email it to us at info@thepleasureproject.org

For more information, visit www.thepleasureproject.org or email info@thepleasureproject.org.