

**Free Trade v. Treatment Access:  
AIDS in Thailand and the Role of the United States**

Sponsored by JB Grant, The Global Health Interest Group & ENGAGE

Thursday, October 12, 2006

6:45pm

Mountcastle Auditorium (PCTB)

FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED

Thailand was one of the first countries in Asia to offer antiretroviral treatment regimens and to promote generic production of anti-retroviral medicines to reduce the cost of treatment for HIV and AIDS. This national treatment program has served as a model for many other countries, and has succeeded in prolonging the lives of thousands of HIV positive individuals, while encouraging prevention, harm reduction and openness towards HIV and AIDS in Thailand. Since 1984, when the first case of AIDS was reported in Thailand, the World Bank estimates that more than 1 million Thais have been infected with the virus. Of those, more than 400,000 have died. Currently, there are still approximately 20,000 new infections every year. Today, the financial sustainability of Thailand's national treatment program is under threat. A proposed free trade agreement between the U.S. and Thailand would undermine Thailand's ability to produce generic versions of new HIV medicines that would ensure lower drug prices. Join us for a discussion with Thai AIDS activists and other public health advocates to learn more about the history of Thailand's HIV treatment program, the proposed free trade agreement between Thailand and the United States, the implications of a possible free trade agreement for Thailand's HIV treatment program, and the sustainability of HIV treatment programs around the world in light of the growing trend towards strict enforcement of intellectual property rules.