Turning the Tide on Transmission

Presenters at today's plenary will address HIV vaccine research and the epidemic among children, adolescents and women, noting that women represent about half of the approximately 34 million people living with HIV worldwide.

Vaccines

In his presentation The Way Forward For Development of an HIV-1 Vaccine, Barton Haynes (United States), Director, Duke Human Vaccine Institute and the Center for HIV/AIDS Vaccine Immunology (CHAVI), will present an overview of the problems that have prevented successful vaccine development and the strategies that the field is taking to overcome these problems. New findings, including the identification of immune correlates of infection risk in the RV144 Thai vaccine efficacy trial and discoveries surrounding broadly neutralizing antibodies, have energized the HIV vaccine field. “These findings can provide clues to speed the development of a preventive vaccine.”

Children and Adolescents

Chewee Luo, Senior Advisor, HIV/AIDS, UNICEF, will speak about Turning the Tide on Children and Adolescents, including the Global Plan to Eliminate New HIV Infections in Children by 2015 and Keeping Their Mothers Alive. The WHO’s support of a “test-and-treat strategy” for all pregnant women living with HIV can optimize the health of mothers and reduce both mother-to-child transmission and sexual transmission between sero-discordant couples, according to Luo. “Although remarkable progress has been made in the short history of preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, it is very clear that we will not achieve the goal of eliminating it unless we apply some serious innovations. And that’s what this strategy is about.”

Women

Linda Scruggs (United States), a consultant and a woman living with AIDS, will discuss Making Women Count: A Comprehensive Agenda, and how gender-specific issues coalesce to create unique vulnerabilities experienced in common by women across the globe, yet distinct from men’s experiences in the U.S. and globally. Scruggs will review power dynamics and gender-based violence, particularly as causes and consequences of HIV transmission to women and their lived experiences. Not only should all women have access to testing, care and treatment, but they should be a part of the planning and research discussion that will ultimately support an end to AIDS, according to Scruggs.

Women and Adolescent Girls

Geeta Rao Gupta, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF, will emphasize that the global community has the opportunity to turn the tide for adolescent girls in her presentation Turning the Tide for Women and Girls. While there has been substantial progress made in recent years, there is an unfinished agenda in the AIDS response – the persistently high rates of infection among adolescents, particularly girls. According to Rao Gupta, this fact reflects pervasive social norms that perpetuate gender inequality and harmful practices, such as child marriage, transactional sex and sexual violence. She will call on the global community to accelerate progress on the AIDS response by redoubling its commitment to adolescent girls and boys.
Programme Highlights

Regional Session: Connecting the Dots – HIV and AIDS in the Context of the Black Diaspora
Session Room 5, 11:00-12:30

In many high-income countries, Black Diaspora populations are often disproportionately affected. Presenters will discuss how these populations are an interconnected phenomenon that warrants greater and immediate global attention.

National HIV Strategies
Session Room 1, 13:00-14:00

This session will explore the accomplishments and challenges of the creation and implementation of national strategies in four countries with varying HIV epidemic profiles: Brazil, South Africa, Swaziland, and the U.S. Speakers include Swaziland Minister of Health Benedict Xaba and CDC Director Thomas Frieden.

Microbicides and PrEP: Back to Basics
Session Room 3, 13:00-14:00

This session will reference the current state of microbicides and PrEP research and outline a path for future research and implementation. A panel discussion will provide real-world considerations for making these tools available to the public.

HCV: A New Era Dawns
Session Room 1, 14:30-16:00

Oral abstract session discussing aspects of HCV infection and therapies.

Hormonal Contraception and HIV: An Evolving Controversy
Session Room 2, 14:30-16:00

Oral abstract session examining issues surrounding hormonal contraception and HIV disease acquisition and progression.

Getting to Zero: Community Style
Session Room 4, 14:30-16:30

This session will examine the three elements of the UNAIDS strategy “Getting to Zero” – zero new HIV infections, zero AIDS-related deaths and zero discrimination – from the community perspective. Panelists, from Jamaica, South Africa and the United Kingdom, will discuss what the three strategies and objectives mean to them and how they are (or are not) being applied.

Regional Session: Middle East and North Africa – Getting HIV and AIDS Down to Zero in the Arab States
Session Room 5, 14:30-16:00

The session will highlight key issues and themes related to stigma and discrimination in the MENA region as a major obstacle to decreasing new HIV infections and providing PLHIV with better care and support. Simultaneous interpretation in French and Arabic.

Children: Growing Up with HIV Infection
Session Room 6, 14:30-16:00

Youth from both the developed and developing world will reflect on their experiences growing up with HIV, highlighting health, development, personal and societal issues.

Regional Session: Turning the Tide in the HIV and AIDS Epidemic in Washington, D.C.
GV Session Room 1, 14:30-16:00

The session will examine progress in scaling up treatment, prevention and research responses to the epidemic in D.C., where an estimated 3.2% of adult residents are living with HIV.

Stigma: Breaking the Silences – Dealing with Stigma and Exclusion for PLHIV and HIV/AIDS Affected Populations
Session Room 1, 16:30-18:00

Oral abstract session featuring presenters from Thailand, Canada, Ethiopia, and other countries.

Regional Session: USA and Canada
Session Room 5, 16:30-18:00

The session will examine the epidemiology of HIV in the USA and Canada and explore health disparities that continue to undermine HIV prevention and care efforts. An interactive panel will investigate ways forward for improved responses.

Faith Community Commits to Help Turn the Tide

“Taking Action for Health, Dignity and Justice: The Interfaith Pre-Conference on HIV” concluded on Saturday with participants pledging to do their part to turn the tide of HIV and AIDS.

Over 400 participants from Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim traditions met 20-21 July at Howard University. Delegates were challenged to act on access to treatment, and dignity and inclusion of people living with HIV and vulnerable populations and urged to work for justice as an integral part of overcoming the pandemic. As one speaker emphasized, “Justice thrives in non-judgmental, non-stigmatizing, non-blaming communities.”

In the event’s closing plenary, participants pledged actions on a banner now displayed at the Global Village Faith Zone. “This battle will not be won by pharmaceuticals, but by communities themselves, communities that are marginalized and discriminated against,” said Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) Executive Director Peter Prove. “This is our special role – our presence in those communities, at a grassroots level, and in a leadership role, in forming opinions.”

The EAA was the lead international sponsor of the pre-conference, partnering with The Balm in Gilead. Co-sponsors included INERELA+, Religions for Peace, Asian Interfaith Network on AIDS, Catholic Medical Mission Board and American Jewish World Service. Additional information is available at www.iacfaith.net.

Official AIDS 2012 Merchandise Available

AIDS 2012 merchandise is now available in Exhibit Hall D at booth #175. Items include t-shirts, caps, coffee mugs, lapel pins, magnetic frames, and more.

Programme Updates – Wednesday 25 July

Symposia Session WESY04: Getting to Zero: Community Style
Zero AIDS-related deaths will be presented by Thabile Thembelihle Dlamini.

Special Session WESS04: The U.S. Congress and the Global AIDS Epidemic

Abstract Session WEAB02: HPV: Meeting the Global Challenge
Abstract WEAB0203 will be presented by Michelle Cespedes.

Abstract Session WEAE04: Young People, HIV and Sexual and Reproductive Health Services
Abstract WEAE0401 will be presented by Cristian Casademont.

Regional Session WERE04: Regional Session on USA and Canada
Opening Remarks by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius.

PROGRAMME-AT-A-GLANCE YOUTH E-POCKET GUIDE L'INFO EN FRANÇAIS - SIDACTION (PARTENAIRE OFFICIEL)

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