Dynamics of the Epidemic in Context

Today’s plenary speakers will discuss challenges and solutions to reversing the disproportionately high rates of HIV prevalence in those groups most vulnerable to infection, including men who have sex with men (MSM), injecting drug users (IDUs), transgender people, and sex workers.

MSM and HIV
Paul Semugoma (Uganda), Global Forum on MSM and HIV, will discuss Turning the Tide for MSM and HIV. Though tremendous prevention and care options are creating exciting possibilities for curbing the HIV/AIDS epidemic worldwide, and in Africa, it is particularly challenging that the stumbling blocks of denial, stigma, prejudice and discrimination are holding back progress, according to Semugoma. “We can turn the tide against HIV. We can get to dizzying heights, realms of a world of zero infections, but not without embracing the needs of all affected by HIV, including MSM.”

Sex Workers
Legal reform and greater involvement of sex workers in HIV prevention strategies will be crucial to meet the challenges that game-changing new prevention technologies and treatment as prevention have brought. Cheryl Overs (Australia), Researcher, Monash University, will argue in her presentation, The Tide Cannot Be Turned Without Us: HIV Epidemics Amongst Key Affected Populations. “Sex workers from Sweden to Singapore to Swaziland say the greatest threats to their health and human rights are law and policy that make it impossible to find safe places to work and prevent them from enjoying the same opportunities and protections as other workers and citizens.”

Transgender Community
Debbie McMillian (United States), Risk Counseling Specialist, Transgender Health Empowerment, will discuss her personal experience as a transwoman with a history of sex work and drug use in Making Waves: The Changing Tide of HIV and Drug Use. “We are the people who are tired of being in the target sights of this epidemic and other storms. I have a dream that one day society will recognize the transgender population as human and deserving of all the rights afforded to most citizens.”

Expanding Treatment
Gottfried Hirnschall, Director, WHO HIV Department, will discuss Expanding Testing and Treatment, arguing that forward-looking policies, innovative approaches to service delivery and further investments in the systems needed to support larger numbers of people on ART will be required. “A decade of implementation experience and new scientific evidence have brought us to a decisive moment in the fight against AIDS. We have to address the prospect that more people will require ART sooner rather than later. That means innovation in testing, in drugs and diagnostics, and in service delivery. And it means that our measures of success need to shift from simply enrolling more people on ART to ensuring that they are retained on it and reap all possible health and prevention benefits.”

Sign the D.C. Declaration!

Some of the world’s leading HIV researchers have signed the D.C. Declaration. Community advocates have signed. Actress and comedian Whoopi Goldberg has signed. Have you?

The possibility of beginning to end the AIDS epidemic in our lifetimes is now a reality, but it requires a scale up of resources and efforts using the tools we have today to curb new infections and improve the health of tens of millions of people with HIV/AIDS. Turning the tide will take concerted leadership at all levels of government, health systems, and academic and non-governmental organizations. The Washington, D.C. Declaration calls for:

- An increase in targeted new investments
- Access for all to evidence-based HIV prevention, treatment and care
- An end to stigma, discrimination, legal sanctions and human rights abuses against those living with and at risk for HIV
- Marked increases in HIV testing, counseling and linkages to services
- Treatment for all pregnant and nursing women living with HIV and an end to peri-natal transmission
- Access to antiretroviral treatment for all in need
- Identification, diagnosis and treatment of TB
- Accelerated research on new HIV prevention and treatment tools
- Mobilization and meaningful involvement of affected communities.

Sign the declaration online at www.dcdeclaration.org or www.2endaids.org. Lend your name before the final number of endorsements is announced at the Closing Session!

Miss Something? View Sessions and Highlights Online

Session Videos
Missed a session you wanted to see? Many AIDS 2012 sessions are already available for online viewing. All video webcasts are accessible through the Programme-at-a-Glance (PAG) on the AIDS 2012 website. Webcast sessions are marked with . Click on the session for a link to the AIDS 2012 video recording or the Kaiser Family Foundation webcast and podcast. AIDS 2012 video recordings include speaker slides.

YouTube
The conference YouTube channel features newsmaker interviews with AIDS 2012 leadership, many of the plenary speakers, and other notable voices, as well as daily highlights, the Global Village opening ceremony, and more interviews with delegates. Access the channel through the conference homepage or use the QR code overleaf.
Show Me the Money: Political Commitment, Resources and Pricing
Session Room 1, 11:00-12:30
This session will focus on the shift in the architecture of global development assistance with particular reference to the current crisis around the Global Fund and declining interest in some rich countries in the HIV epidemic.

HIV Persistence and Eradication
Session Room 9, 11:00-12:30
The challenges of long-term HIV treatment, including drug toxicity and economic cost, call for a scientific effort at understanding the principles of viral latency. Speakers will describe the rapid advances in knowledge related to HIV latency, persistence, compartments and therapeutic approaches and present the advent of new therapeutic concepts. The session is co-chaired by IAS President-Elect Françoise Barré-Sinoussi and Steven Deeks of UCSF.

Regional Session: Sub-Saharan Africa – Progress Against AIDS and Key Challenges
Session Room 5, 11:00-12:30
In addition to examining progress toward universal treatment access by 2015, this session will examine the need for a new financing framework within the context of the global economic downturn and the Global Fund's cancellation of Round 11 grants. The session will also cover the empowerment of youth, including young people living with HIV. Simultaneous translation in French.

Leadership in the AIDS Response for Women
Session Room 1, 12:56-14:00
This high-level special session will focus on the critical role of leadership in improving the HIV response for women, their families and their communities. Speakers include former U.S. First Lady Laura Bush and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, General Secretary of the National League for Democracy, Burma/Myanmar (via video).

The Global Fund: The Next Five Years
Session Room 1, 14:30-16:00
Taking into account the recent organizational reforms at the Global Fund, this session will discuss the strategic direction and future hopes of the Fund from the perspectives of the recently appointed General Manager Gabriel Jaramillo, implementing countries, members of civil society and the donor community.

HIV Reservoirs: Where and How is the Virus Hiding?
Session Room 9, 14:30-16:00
An oral abstract session examining issues surrounding HIV reservoirs and persistent infection.

Regional Session: Asia and the Pacific Islands – On the Edge of the Cliff
Session Room 5, 14:30-16:00
Community organizations representing key populations, PLHIV and experts will engage in a discussion about how to scale up and strengthen HIV prevention, treatment and care in the region. Two thematic presentations focus on threats to affordable generic medications and research on violations of sexual and reproductive rights of women living with HIV.

Late Breaker Track B
Session Room 6, 16:30-18:00
Oral abstract session for Track B: Clinical Science.

Hubs Take AIDS 2012 to the World
More than 100 sites on six continents are holding conferences during and after AIDS 2012. Several U.S. embassies in Africa and Asia are hosting hubs and The Black AIDS Institute is hosting more than one dozen hubs across the U.S., each with a different theme.

The hubs are “mini conferences” held in conjunction with AIDS 2012 and organized by local organizations. AIDS 2012 sessions are screened at the organizers’ discretion and are typically followed by discussions with local or regional experts. The conference hubs may also feature workshops and trainings.

The hubs have been especially important to the sex work and injecting drug use communities because of U.S. entry restrictions. Prior to the conference, the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN) hosted a forum to prepare messages from representatives from the drug using communities in Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Russia, Belarus, Georgia and the Baltic states to the delegates of AIDS 2012. Forum participants took part in panel discussions and created video messages. EHRN will host a post-conference hub in September to follow up on the forum. During the week of the conference, more than 500 sex workers from 41 countries are attending the Sex Worker Freedom Festival, a hub meeting in Kolkata, India. Several AIDS 2012 sessions featured live links with the Kolkata hub. The AIDS 2012 blog at www.aids2012.org features posts from organizers and participants in these events.

Organizations can apply to host a hub through 15 September. In order to hold a hub, organizers must have at least 20 participants and show at least two presentations from AIDS 2012. The Programme-at-a-Glance contains a list of already approved hub sites, and additional information is available at aids2012.org/hubs.

Women, Girls and HIV Investigator Prize
Peter Mubiope, Uganda, will receive the Women, Girls and HIV Investigator Prize at 12:55 in Session Room 1 before the Leadership in the AIDS Response for Women. session The prize is offered jointly by the IAS-Industry Liaison Forum and UNAIDS, and supported by the International Centre for Research on Women and the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS. The US$2,000 prize is awarded to an investigator from a low-income or middle-income country whose abstract demonstrates excellence in research and/or practice that addresses women, girls and gender issues related to HIV and AIDS.